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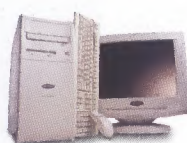
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Processor	Intel Celeron processor 366MHz	Intel Celeron processor 400MHz	Intel Celeron processor 466MHz
RAM	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM
Hard Drive	4.3GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*
DVD ROM	4.8X var. speed DVD-RDM drive	4.8X var. speed DVD-RDM drive	4.8X var. speed DVD-RDM drive
Modem	3Com USRobotics V.9D WinModem**	3Com USRobotics V.9D WinModem**	3Com USRobotics V.9D WinModem**
Graphics	8MB nVidia Riva 128ZX AGP 2X graphics	8MB nVidia Riva 128ZX AGP 2X graphics	8MB nVidia Riva 128ZX AGP 2X graphics
Micron U	1-year free ^a training @ Micron U online	1-year free ^a training @ Micron U online	1-year free ^a training @ Micron U online
Onsite Warranty	3-year on-site limited Warranty	3-year on-site limited Warranty	3-year on-site limited Warranty
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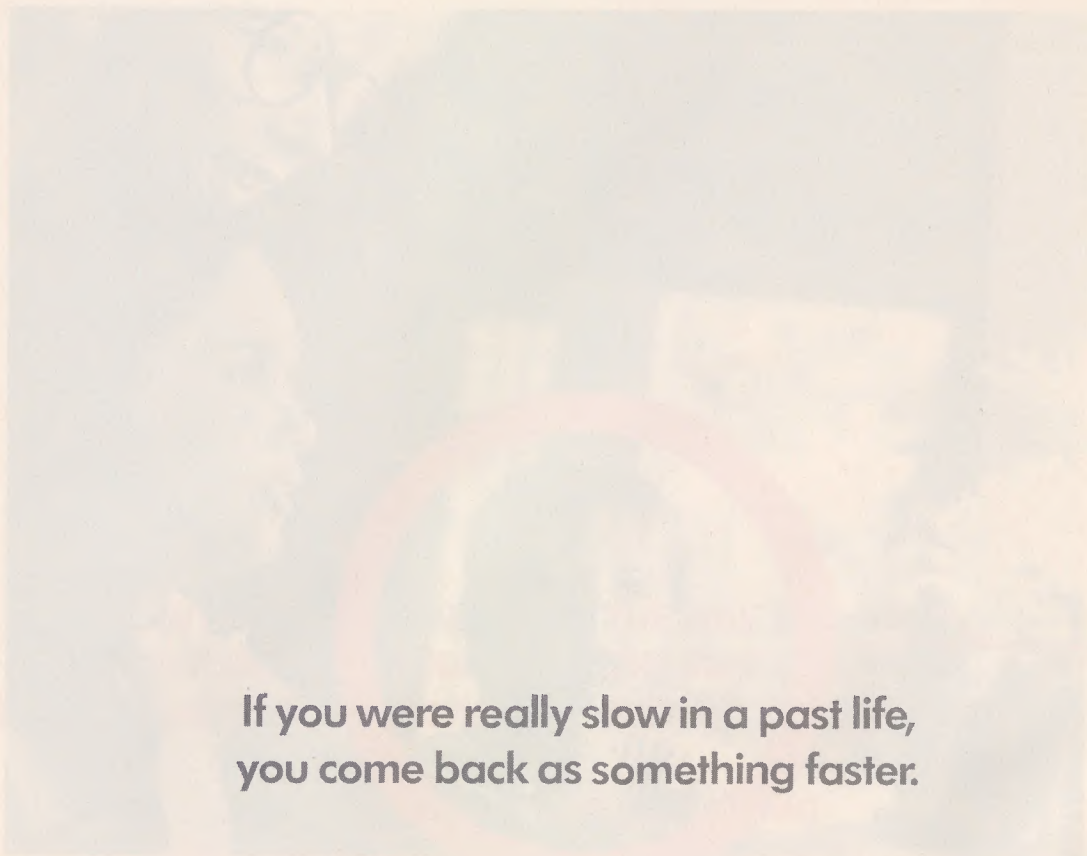


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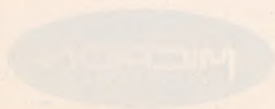
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Let's talk beautiful color. Got a few seconds?



Introducing the BJC-6000 Color Bubble Jet™ printer.

A few seconds is all you need. After all, print speeds up to 8 ppm in black and 5 ppm in color make it one of the fastest printers in its class. And with 1440 x 720 dpi as well as our exclusive Drop Modulation Technology™, the color is certainly something to talk about. Plus, our exclusive Canon Think Tank System™ features money-saving individual ink tanks. The BJC-6000. For about \$249,* it's simply the smart choice. Visit our Web site at www.ccsi.canon.com/6000 or call 1-800-OK-CANON for details.

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Year-End Sales Report

Executive Summary
1994 was an extraordinary year for the company. Net sales increased by a modest 1.1%, profitability is at an all-time high, and inventory levels are at an all-time low. The sales volume increase is attributed to the previous year's investment in training, and profit and inventory improvements reflect the just-in-time delivery system that was implemented in the first portion of the year. Marketing leaders credit this shift as an all-time low.

Impact Of Web Commerce

For a study comparing two of the broadest measures of our Web Commerce business as a leading provider of new products, as well as the degree to which we understand our sales impact, Web Commerce business continues to be performing 51-55% over the previous year, more than three times our original projections. Moreover, Web Commerce transactions are conducted at a much lower cost than traditional transactions, thus sales and administrative overhead is significantly less, further contributing to our profitability. This Web Commerce effort must be expected to continue throughout 1999, especially since we plan to begin Web development in house. Global Web site development will result

Value costs and management's updating of old data, giving us the ability to more quickly implement pricing and promotional programs that drive consumer demand. In addition, consumer profile data acquired through our Web-based transactions will stimulate the development of creative new programs, drive additional business opportunities and allow us to better service our customers. Sethi Duggan, Manager of the Information Systems Department and its highly talented and dedicated staff deserves special recognition for their efforts in supporting the rapid changes and enhancements that made our Web-Commerce programs such a success.

Improved Productivity With The Canon BJC-6000
Office productivity was recently enhanced through the purchase of two Canon BJC-6000 Office Inkable Jet printers. These remarkable printers combine impressively quick print speed (up to 180 "pages" per min.) and exceptional build and color print quality. The laser quality black printing and rich, detailed 1440 x 720 dpi color printing have allowed the sales department to create impressive proposals, crisp correspondence and all high-impact presentations. In addition, the BJC-6000's individual ink tanks are not only convenient for refilling, but also allow for the replacement of only the ink that is used.

Powerful Software Tools

All company sales proposals are now being developed and printed using the Canon Creative Print software suite included with the BJC-6000. Canon Creative Print provides everything needed to create, personalize, and proof professionally designed business and marketing materials quickly and easily. Many of our customers have commented on the quality of the documents and responsiveness we've received with the Canon BJC-6000 Color.

Bobbie Jet photos and Canon Creative Fly software

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Quarterly Report

Chart represents regional sales



Next Quarter Focus

- In-Store Training Representatives
- Sell-In / Sell-Out Inventory Balance
- Web Sharing and Commerce Programs
- Customer Data Requirements
- Manufacturing Cost and Inventory Sites
- Product Profiling and Consumer Usage

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The Canon Bubble Jet[®]

Canon's BJC-6000 is the smart choice for all your printing needs.

Key Features

- Fast 8ppm black and 5ppm color**
- Rich, laser-quality black printing
- 1440 x 720 dpi color printing

Plus:

- Individual ink tanks that save money
- Ink sensors tell you when ink is low
- USB and Network compatible**

A Truly Remarkable Printer At An Amazing Price.
The new RMC-6000 Color Bubble Jet™ printer is the answer chosen for all your printing needs, whether for a home workplace or a home office. It establishes a new benchmark in affordable, professional-quality printing by adding intelligent functions that help you work smarter, not harder. With blazing fast black and color printing, an exceptionally high resolution, and an intelligent ink system that eliminates waste and saves you money, the RMC-6000 will make you look even *more* like a pro.

Case: Quality Comes Through. You'll be amazed at the HC-6000's print quality. With remarkable 1440 x 720 dpi resolution and Canon's exclusive image modulation technology, you get crisp, laser-quality black, vibrant color and incredible photo output. Add

Intelligent Ink System Saves Money
In addition to incredible speed and quality, the iNC-6000 features individual ink tanks. Now you can replace only the color that's worn, eliminating waste and saving money. Plus, a unique optical flow ink sensor alerts you when ink is running low, before you run out.

Visit our Web site at www.ccll.canon.com

Key Features

- *Fast print speeds up to 8 ppm black & 5 ppm color*
 - *Rich, laser-quality black printing*
 - *1440 x 720 dpi color & black printing*

\$249*



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Clenched butt cheeks • constant low-grade ambient fear • euphoria • the shakes • working the word "cramp" into every conversation • unemployment • hyperactive adrenal gland • fondness for really tight, stretchy fabrics • mild dyspepsia • heart palpitations • deep appreciation for rope • excitability • forgetfulness • failed relationships • insomnia • horripilation • increased heart rate • increased sex appeal • shortness of breath • bullous eruption • nervousness • forgetfulness • dizziness • ironic simultaneous hypersensitivity to and craving for eggs • increased salivation • nausea • chills • twitching • scurvy • sore joints • increased sweating • nasty paper cut • flaky skin • hair where there wasn't hair before • no hair where there once was hair • forgetfulness • halitosis • amnesia • spasms • tongue gets stuck in desk drawer • that gassy and bloated feeling • delusions of grandeur • fondness for wearing a safety harness • forgetfulness • potbelly • torn earlobe • temporary loss of bladder control • abnormal thinking • incomprehensible babbling • comprehensible babbling • anxiety • smarty pants • forgetfulness • bulging eyeballs • the yucks • attention deficit dis. • sleep disorder • non-specific offensive odor • agitation • hot flashes • cat scratch fever • spring fever • weak knees • forgetfulness • hyperventilation • rug burn • Indian burn • cooties • noogies • wedgies • heebies • jeebies • heebie-jeebies • bloodshot eyes • achiness • breakiness • shakiness • cauliflower ear • hangnail • calluses • blisters • gout • the frizzies • morning breath • the munchies • foot odor • normal to oily skin • sniffing • sneezing • coughing • stuffy-head-so-you-can't-rest • fine lines and wrinkles • bags under eyes • fear of snapping a femur • wheezing • sweaty palms • hairy palms • hairy tongue • studliness • forgetfulness • spastic colon. (Please see Quokka.com billboards for complete list of side effects.)

What is Quokka.com?

Quokka.com is 24-hour live sports coverage that uses proprietary digital technologies to let you experience what the athletes experience. Combined, these technologies deliver a powerful new form of sports entertainment called Quokka Sports Immersion™.

Quokka.com live climbing expeditions and events:

Great Trango Tower—Three top climbers including Alex Lowe travel to Pakistan to attempt the first ascent of the Tower's Northwest Face—a mile-high, vertical rock wall. Spending 30 days on the wall itself, the team will relay live audio, photos, 3-D maps, firsthand reports and biometric data.

First Ascent—A team of professional climbers scales the unconquered peaks of the Karakoram range in China. Quokka Sports delivers continuously updated live coverage—audio direct from the mountain, digital photos, climber e-mails, weather reports and global positioning data.

CART Champ Car Racing—The fastest circuit racers in the world. Quokka Sports provides complete, immersive coverage of races throughout the season with a real-time race viewer, behind-the-scenes reporting, standings, statistics and live audio from the cockpit.

Users may also experience these archived events:

Marathon des Sables—Runners test the limits of human endurance in this 150-mile foot race across the Sahara desert.

Around Alone—Sailing's ultimate challenge and the longest race for an individual in any sport. One person, on a boat, around the world, alone.

The Whilbread—Yacht racing's most grueling competition. A 32,000-mile odyssey. A 16-month efficacy trial involving users 18-49 years of age reports a high response of "This is freaking incredible" from our randomly selected trial participants. A smaller group responded with barely audible chirping noises. One participant simply crawled into the fetal position under the table, where he remains to this very day.

What is Quokka Sports Immersion?

QSI is the active ingredient in Quokka.com. It is a revolutionary way to follow sports, combining live video and audio, still images, continuous 24-hour updates, e-mail diaries from the competitors, biometric data, professional commentary, real-time statistics, event maps, background information and athlete bios. Studies show Quokka Sports Immersion provides the most intense sports coverage available today. Studies of these previous studies confirm the results of two earlier studies. A 22-month study of these 12-month studies demonstrates that 14-month studies based on previous 8-month studies are basically a load of crap. All studies conclude that further studies will be necessary.

Is it possible to overdose on Quokka.com?

No. It is impossible to overdose on Quokka.com. Anyone who tells you otherwise is a damn liar. Stop this crazy talk immediately. However, Quokka.com users should be aware of the possibility of withdrawal symptoms when they log off of Quokka.com. These withdrawal effects may include: random bouts of excruciating pain, ennui, a sense of existential despair, swollen fingers, vampirism, loss of popularity among friends and co-workers, and an unsightly blemish right in the middle of your forehead.

What the **** do you mean, side effects?!

Users may experience severe side effects as a result of their complete immersion in the drama and excitement of the sports event. Due caution should therefore be exercised when using Quokka.com while operating the following potentially dangerous machinery: lawnmowers, single-engine aircraft, 80-story cranes, monster trucks, elaborate lever-and-pulley systems, acetylene torches, invisible death rays, visible death rays, lunar landing modules, levitating bullet trains, tanning beds, nuclear submarines, 40-ton hydraulic presses, forklifts or toaster ovens.

What if I become pregnant while using Quokka.com?

It is unlikely that you will get pregnant while simultaneously using Quokka.com because of the highly engaging spectator experience Quokka Sports Immersion provides. However, if pregnancy does occur, you should refrain from giving your baby the following names: Cramp, Blister, Piston, Barnacle, Gaping Wound, Hypoxia, Matey, Tapwater, Cockpit, Sidecar, Musty Sail Bag.

Who can I sue if I'm injured by Quokka.com?

Because Quokka collapses the distance between you and the sports event, you experience what the athletes experience (see table 1). Consequently, there is a small probability (<0.0001%) you will become injured as a result of your immersive experience. There is also a small probability (<0.000001%) you will co-star in a sitcom about a talking goat detective. Quokka.com, Quokka Sports, its parent company or any of its subsidiaries accept no responsibility for any injuries, real, imagined or otherwise, sustained while using Quokka.com. If, however, you sustain injuries while co-starring in a sitcom about a talking goat detective, feel free to sue anyone you want to.

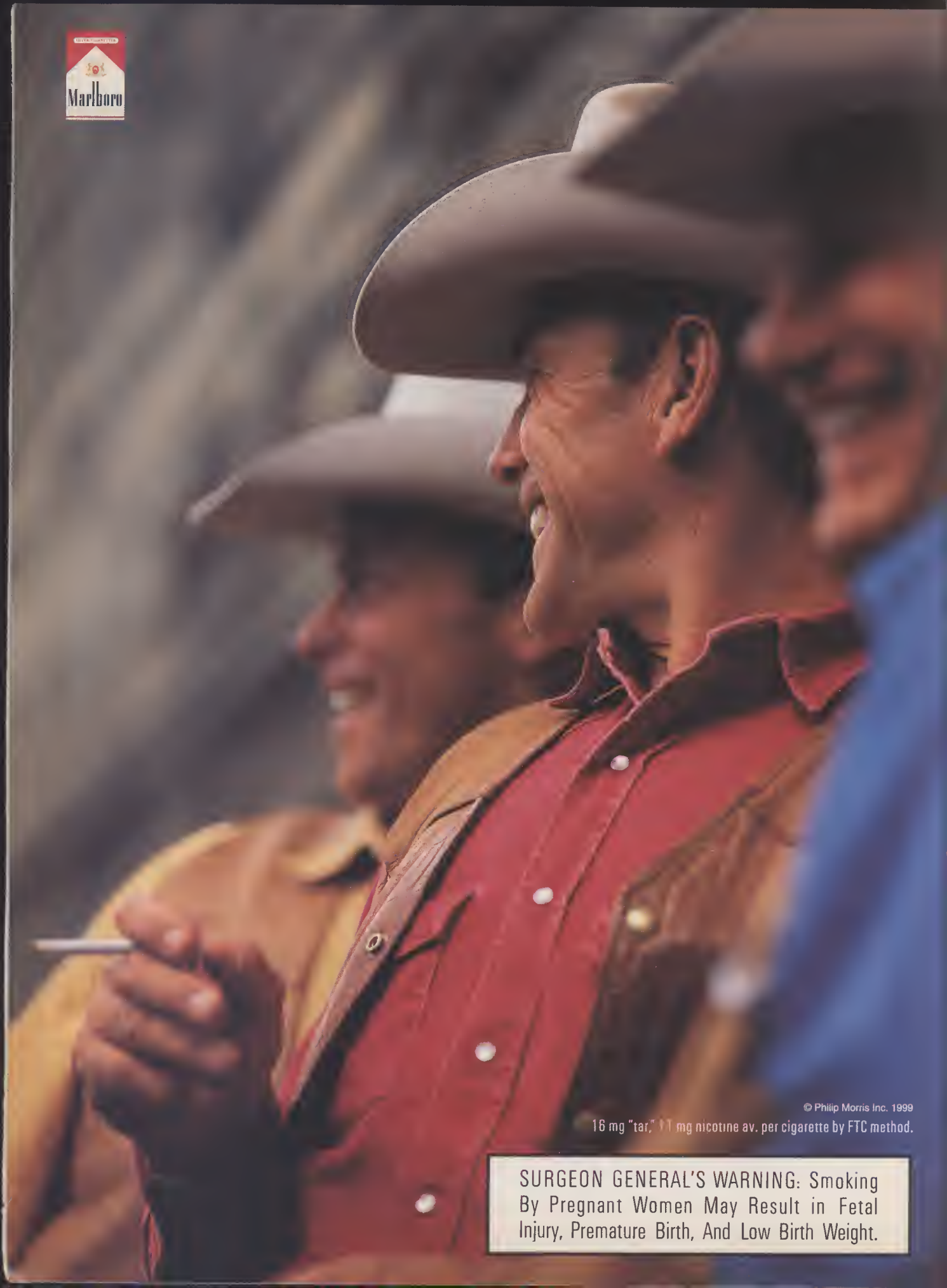
Table 1. The Incidence of Unsolicited Adverse Events (Including Severe Events) Reported by Quokka Athletes in a Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial.

Adverse Events	Quokka.com	Placebo (sugar pill)
Avalanche	23%	0%
Gale-force winds	62%	0%
Uncontrollable sobbing	44%	9%
Teeth fall out of head	1%	83%
Hit wall at 200 mph	17%	0%
Laceration	99%	6%
Fall into crevasse	12%	0%
Spontaneous decapitation	0%	2%
40-ft. waves	39%	0%
Struck by runaway grand piano	0%	31%

Can I expect any adverse reactions?

Quokka Sports coverage is so intensely engaging that users may experience adverse reactions caused by their prolonged exposure to the site. The most common adverse reactions include "If I catch you on that site again, you're fired!" "When was the last time you showered?" and "You reek."

This summary provides important information about Quokka.com. This summary cannot replace the more detailed information that you will receive from the actual Quokka.com web site. In summary, it's hard to believe you read this entire summary.



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16 mg "tar," 1.1 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.



July 1999 • Volume 5 Number 7

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South Park cover image: PARAMOUNT PICTURES

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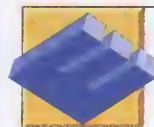
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- Logitech First Mouse + Wheel (PS/2v)

★ **Dell Customized Upgrade, add \$199.**
64MB SDRAM, 9.1GB⁴ Ultra ATA Hard Drive (7200 RPM), 17" (16.0" viewable, .26dp) M780 Monitor (E•Value Code: 88864-500610a)

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- 9.1GB⁴ Ultra ATA Hard Drive (7200 RPM)
- 17" (16.0" viewable, .26dp) M780 Monitor
- 8MB ATI XPERT 98D 3D AGP Graphics
- 40X Max⁵ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Turtle Beach Montego II A3D 320V Sound Card
- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
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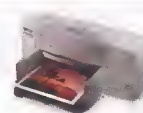
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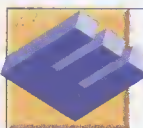
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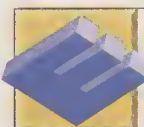
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Uses and Abuses

As we go to press with an issue that focuses on what's positive and useful about the Internet, the national debate over the causes of the shootings in Littleton, Colorado, still rages—with the Net coming in for a share of the blame. Something as unfathomable as seemingly normal teens bent on massacre begs for explanation, and so Hollywood, TV violence, bullying athletes, Nazi ideology, lax principals, godless society, and Charlton Heston have all taken their turn in the dock.

So, of course, has the Internet.

It's a ritual that now accompanies each new American tragedy or melodrama: If an Internet angle can be found, Internet-flavored headlines and stories will follow. Though Net access among educated U.S. households is approaching majority status, the fact that someone at the center of a crime or scandal has a Web site, sends e-mail, or plays computer games is seized upon as "evidence" that the sinister influence of the Internet is involved.

This finger-pointing is part of a historical continuum. Other communication tools were blamed for pernicious evils of their time, too: the telephone, radio, movies, and, not least, television. But the Net is a polymorph, shape-shifting into all of the above—and more. So the odds are high you'll find increasing Net "involvement" in the course of everyday human events.

In the event of the Colorado shooting, one of the gunmen's Web sites was found to contain descriptions of pipe bombs. The official Columbine High School site, laced with disturbing links

and references, was apparently maintained for a time by members of the Trench Coat Mafia. On TV talk shows, this led some to ask why the Net shouldn't be regulated, censored, or otherwise more closely patrolled. In other forums, too, there were dark mutterings about what happens when loners spend too much time online, and about the need for laws or direct police action

to stop people from making threats on the Net. To be safe, some seemed to say, just log off.

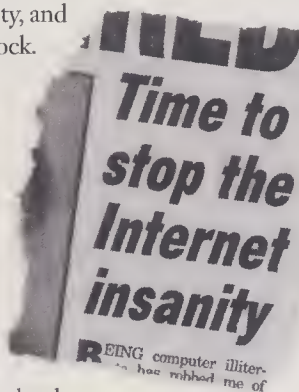
Our notion has been that there's good and bad on the Internet—as in every other sphere of life—and that parental monitoring is the only thing that makes sense. The Internet is too big and too precious to censor. Even trying to govern it by law is impossible. Type *I want to kill* into a search engine and you will get links to thousands of pages, for starters. No software or federal cop could have reasonably headed this off.

But in the case of Columbine, school administrators might have checked what was on their site. Parents, even without technical expertise, might have kept track of what the kids were looking at and posting online. And they could have done so with about the same effort it takes to know what they're reading, what movies they see, or what parties they attend. (Web tip: Ctrl+H displays a browser's surf history.)

Our modest proposal: People in positions of responsibility should spend *more* time, not less, online. Make use of the Internet's strengths to combat its abuses. Use it or lose it.

Now, on to our Incredibly Useful issue.

Barry Golson Editor in Chief
Letters to the editor: backchat@zd.com



OUR TEAR-OUT SITE ADDRESS GUIDE IS ON PAGE 25

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Yahoo! Internet Live: Today's best Net events. www.yilive.com

Freebies, Bargains, and Contests: There is such a thing as a free lunch. www.freebargain.com

Incredibly Useful Site of the Day: Help the Web help you. www.incrediblyuseful.com

Daily Double Download: Playful and practical shareware daily. www.doubledownload.com

Ask the Surf Guru: You've got questions; he's got answers. www.surf-guru.com

Pretty Strange: Sites your mother warned you about. www.prettystrange.com

Your Yastrologer: Your daily Net horoscope. www.yastrologer.com

Back Issues: Every edition of Y-Life since the beginning. www.yil.com/filters/toc/masterlist.html
Net Essentials: The bookmarks you must have. www.yil.com/essentials

FEATURES

SMELLS LIKE TOON SPIRIT (PAGES 84-87)

- ☐ The Goddamn George Liquor Program www.spumco.com
- ☐ Tommy Sausage www.eggtoons.com
- ☐ ShockRave www.shockrave.com
- ☐ Honkworm www.honkworm.com
- ☐ Pink Donkey and the Fly/B. Happy www.cartoonnetwork.com
- ☐ WhirlGirl www.showtimeonline.com/whirlgirl
- ☐ StanLee.net www.stanlee.net
- ☐ Disney.com www.disney.com

SOUL FOOD (PAGES 88-89)

- ☐ Isaac Hayes www.isaachayes.com
- ☐ Y-Life's South Park Web guide www.yil.com/southpark
- ☐ Comedy Central: South Park www.comedycentral.com/southpark
- ☐ South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut www.southparkmovie.com
- ☐ Beef-Cake.com www.beef-cake.com
- ☐ Sweet sweet.stomped.com
- ☐ ShockRave www.shockrave.com
- ☐ South Park Central www.spcentral.com

50 MOST INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITES (PAGES 90-98)

Personal Finance

- ☐ Financenter.com ClickCalcs www.financenter.com/calcs.html
- ☐ Thomson Real Time Quotes rtq.thomsoninvest.net
- ☐ Visa ATM Locator www.visa.com/atms
- ☐ The MasterCard/Cirrus ATM Locator www.mastercard.com/atm
- ☐ Bankrate.com www.bankrate.com
- ☐ The "Full" Universal Currency Converter www.xe.net/currency/full

- ☐ The Universal Currency Converter www.xe.net/currency

- ☐ InsWeb www.insweb.com

Reference

- ☐ Infoplease.com www.infoplease.com
- ☐ OneLook Dictionaries www.onelook.com
- ☐ A Web of On-line Dictionaries www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/rbeard/diction.html
- ☐ AltaVista translation services babelfish.altavista.com
- ☐ Mr. Smith E-Mails... www.mrsmith.com
- ☐ FedStats www.fedstats.gov
- ☐ Learn2.com www.learn2.com

Home

- ☐ Virtual Relocation.com www.virtualrelocation.com
- ☐ BH&G Home Improvement Encyclopedia www.bhglive.com/homeimp/docs
- ☐ The Old Farmer's Almanac www.almanac.com
- ☐ AOL.com Pets Decision Guide www.aol.personallogic.com/?product=pets,aolcom,aolcom

Personal

- ☐ AOL Workplace Careers Decision Guide www.aol.personallogic.com/?product=career,aol
- ☐ Jump! www.jump.com
- ☐ USNO Master Clock Time tycho.usno.navy.mil/what.html
- ☐ Peterson's www.petersons.com
- ☐ Love@AOL Date Planner www.aol.personallogic.com/?product=dating,aolcom,aolcom

Entertainment

- ☐ Gist TV www.thegist.com
- ☐ TV Guide Online www.tvguide.com
- ☐ MovieLink www.movielink.com
- ☐ Ticketmaster Online www.ticketmaster.com

- ☐ Pollstar www.pollstar.com
- ☐ Movie Review Query Engine www.mrqe.com
- ☐ Internet Movie Database www.imdb.com
- ☐ Lycos MP3 Search mp3.lycos.com

Travel

- ☐ Bestfares.com www.bestfares.com
- ☐ Online Vacation Mall onlinevacationmall.com
- ☐ City Rail Transit pavel.physics.sunysb.edu/RR/metro.html
- ☐ Hostels.com Worldwide Hostel Guide www.hostels.com/hostel.menu.html
- ☐ L.L. Bean Park Search www.llbean.com/parksearch
- ☐ TheTrip.com FlightTracker www.thetrip.com/usertools/flighttracking

Medical/Legal

- ☐ Mayo Clinic Health Oasis www.mayohealth.org
- ☐ AMA Physician Select On-Line Doctor Finder www.ama-assn.org/aps/amahg.htm
- ☐ Lawyers.com www.lawyers.com
- ☐ IntelliHealth www.intelihealth.com/IH/ihntH
- ☐ CDC Travel Information www.cdc.gov/travel/travelmap.html

Automotive

- ☐ Edmund's www.edmunds.com
- ☐ Kelley Blue Book www.kbb.com
- ☐ The WWW Speedtrap Registry www.speedtrap.com

Mail Sites

- ☐ FedEx www.fedex.com
- ☐ UPS www.ups.com
- ☐ U.S. Postal Service www.usps.gov
- ☐ DHL Worldwide Express www.dhl.com
- ☐ U.S. Postal Service ZIP+4 Code Lookup www.usps.gov/hcsc/lookups/lookup_zip+4.html
- ☐ InterShipper www.intershipper.net
- ☐ MoversNet www.usps.gov/moversnet

Shopping

- ☐ BookBlvd.com www.bookblvd.com
- ☐ CompareNet www.compare.net
- ☐ The Gadget Guru www.gadgetguru.com

10 Net-Useful Sites

- ☐ Yahoo! www.yahoo.com
- ☐ MetaCrawler www.metacrawler.com
- ☐ Deja News www.dejanews.com
- ☐ WhoWhere? www.whowhere.lycos.com
- ☐ Yahoo! Net Events events.yahoo.com
- ☐ ZDNet Software Library www.hotfiles.com
- ☐ The List thelist.internet.com
- ☐ Computer Virus Myths kumite.com/myths
- ☐ Liszt www.liszt.com
- ☐ Mind-it www.netmind.com/html/users.html

10 Supremely Useful Sites

- ☐ Weather.com www.weather.com
- ☐ CNN/SI Desktop Scores www.cnn.com/desktop
- ☐ Broadcast.com www.broadcast.com

- ☐ Excite NewsTracker nt.excite.com
- ☐ The Ultimates theultimates.com
- ☐ Switchboard www.switchboard.com
- ☐ DeLorme CyberMaps
www.delorme.com/CyberMaps
- ☐ Maps On Us www.mapsonus.com
- ☐ SpringStreet www.springstreet.com
- ☐ Realtor.com www.realtor.com
- Incredibly Useful Sites of Tomorrow**
- ☐ California Politicians Decision Guide
www.personalogic.com
- ☐ FastTV.com www.fasttv.com
- ☐ Audible www.audible.com
- ☐ Zabaware www.zabaware.com
- ☐ BullsEye www.intelliseek.com/prod/products.htm
- ☐ WebVCR www.netresultscorp.com
- ☐ Neuromedia Inc. www.neurostudios.com

THE WEB AT WAR (PAGES 100-104, 142)

- ☐ Find Kosovar Albanian Refugees in Macedonia www.refugjat.org
- ☐ NATO www.nato.int
- ☐ Voice of America www.ibb.gov
- ☐ CNN Interactive www.cnn.com
- ☐ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Official Web Site www.gov.yu
- ☐ War Against Yugoslavia (INET's Belgrade Webcam) www.inet.co.yu/kamera
- ☐ INCORE: Initiative on Conflict Resolution & Ethnicity www.incore.ulst.ac.uk
- ☐ Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org
- ☐ ABCNews.com abcnews.go.com
- ☐ Radio B92 www.b92.net
- ☐ Anonymizer.com's Kosovo Privacy Project
info.anonymizer.com/kosovo.shtml
- ☐ Amnesty International USA
www.amnestyusa.org
- ☐ Center for Information Strategy and Policy
www.cisp.org
- ☐ OneWorld www.oneworld.org
- ☐ Global Beat www.nyu.edu/globalbeat
- ☐ Serbia Now! News www.sn-ol.com/news

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 CLICKS (PAGES 108-111)

- ☐ Yahoo! www.yahoo.com

- ☐ Round-the-World Travel Guide
www.travel-library.com/rtw/html
- ☐ MSN Expedia Travel www.expedia.com
- ☐ Travelocity.com www.travelocity.com
- ☐ High Adventure Travel www.highadv.com
- ☐ Netfare.net www.netfare.net
- ☐ Paris Hotel Guide
www.france.com/travel/hotels/PHG.html
- ☐ Locafat Paris www.locafat.com
- ☐ Israel's Hotel Center www.inisrael.com/hotels
- ☐ Thaiway.com www.thaiway.com
- ☐ Palawan www.palawan.net
- ☐ China Custom Tours www.xintours.com
- ☐ China International Travel Service
www.citsusa.com
- ☐ Hotels in China www.cbw.com/hotel
- ☐ Hong Kong Tourist Association www.hkta.org
- ☐ Hotmail www.hotmail.com
- ☐ The Internet Café Guide
www.netcafeguide.com
- ☐ Technotravel: How to Access the Internet While Traveling
pobox.com/~technotravel
- ☐ Foreign Languages for Travelers
www.travlang.com/languages
- Circling the Millennium**
- ☐ Around the World by Private Concorde
www.intrav.com/millen.htm
- ☐ Millennium II Air France Concorde Charter Tour
www.emcoinc.com/travel/html/Millen/Concorde.htm
- ☐ Dawn of a New Millennium
www.wildernesstravel.com/millenn.htm
- ☐ Millennium Trips www.mtsobek.com/MTS_NAV/mill_fm.htm
- ☐ Odyssey 2000 www.kneeland.com

YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE'S GOLD STAR SITES: SPORTS (PAGES 112-116)

- ☐ ESPN.com www.espn.go.com
- ☐ CBS SportsLine cbs.sportsline.com
- ☐ NBA.com www.nba.com
- ☐ NFL.com www.nfl.com
- ☐ Fastball www.fastball.com
- ☐ Total Baseball Online www.totalbaseball.com
- ☐ ESPN.com NBA espn.go.com/nba
- ☐ CBS SportsLine NFL cbs.sportsline.com/nfl
- ☐ NHL.com www.nhl.com

- ☐ The Daily Soccer www.dailysoccer.com
- ☐ Soccer Times www.soccertimes.com
- ☐ Tennis.com www.tennis.com
- ☐ The Auto Channel www.autochannel.com
- ☐ College Sports News Daily
chili.collegesportsnews.com
- ☐ Golf Online.com www.golffonline.com
- ☐ Sports Illustrated for Women
www.siforwomen.com
- ☐ Rumor City www.rumorcity.com
- ☐ The Hockey Report
home.i1.net/~antmba/geo.htm
- Report Card: Grading the Major Sports Hubs**
- ☐ ESPN.com www.espn.go.com
- ☐ CBS SportsLine www.sportsline.com
- ☐ CNN/SI www.cnn.com
- ☐ The Sporting News www.tsn.com
- ☐ FOX Sports www.foxsports.com
- A Closer Look: Fantasy Leagues**
- ☐ ESPN.com Fantasy Games
games.espn.go.com
- ☐ Fantasy SportsExchange
usatoday.wallstreetsports.com
- ☐ Yahoo! Sports Fantasy Baseball
fantasy.yahoo.com/baseball
- ☐ Fastball www.fastball.com
- ☐ Free Commissioner Services 1999
rotonews.com/specials/fastball/index.htm
- ☐ Sandbox.net www.sandbox.net

COLUMNS

ROGER EBERT: CRITICAL EYE (PAGE 72)

- ☐ SeniorNet www.seniornet.org
- ☐ Salon www.salonmagazine.com

CHARLES PAPPAS: SAFETY NET (PAGE 74)

- ☐ The Adult Check System www.adultcheck.com
- ☐ Password Cop www.passwdcop.com
- ☐ Deja News www.dejanews.com
- ☐ Net Nanny www.netnanny.com
- ☐ Cyber Patrol www.cyberpatrol.com

ANNETTE HAMILTON: REALITY BYTES (PAGE 76)

- ☐ Searchterms.com www.searchterms.com
- ☐ Garage-bands.com www.garage-bands.com
- ☐ Garage Band Network www.garageband.net

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DEPARTMENTS

CLICK (PAGES 39-54)

- Former Child Star Central members.tripod.com/~former_child_star
- The Munsters & Butch Patrick www.munsters.com
- Salma Hayek: The Unofficial Site www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Studio/1268
- The History Place: Apollo 11 www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/apollo11
- Woodstock www.prismnet.com/~ssor/add1/woodstock.html
- The Boss: Bruce Springsteen www.msn.fullfeed.com/~ptblank/boss

Click News

- Favorite Poem Project www.favoritepoem.org
- eBay www.ebay.com
- Salon www.salon.com
- Click Home & Office
- eFax.com www.efax.com
- GIFWorks www.gifworks.com
- Discover Brokerage www.discoverbrokerage.com
- E*Trade www.etrade.com
- Wit Capital www.witcapital.com
- Accompany www.accompany.com

Click Personal

- The Ultimate Taxi www.ultimatetaxi.com
- The Whipping Scenes in Movies Video Catalog www.wsmd.com/wsim/wsim.htm
- Death by Curry www.geocities.com/NapaValley/6654
- Atlas of Tennessee Vascular Plants www.bio.utk.edu/botany/herbarium/vascular/atlas.html
- Japanese Hippiedom village.infoweb.or.jp/~fxba0053
- Bolt www.bolt.com
- Amazon.com www.amazon.com
- Yahoo! Clubs clubs.yahoo.com

Click Games

- Total Entertainment Network www.ten.net
- GameSpot www.gamespot.com
- MSN Gaming Zone www.zone.com
- Starsiege www.starsiege.com
- eBay www.ebay.com
- Sports Gaming Network www.sports-gaming.com
- Everquest www.station.sony.com/everquest
- The Stone www.thestone.net

- PrizePoint Entertainment www.prizepoint.com
- Click Forward: Yahoo! Internet Live
- Yahoo! Internet Live www.ylive.com
- Dr. Logan Chamberlain www.talkamerica.com/chamberlain.html
- The Green Room www.wfmu.org/greenroom.html
- Sleep Disorders Chat sleepdisorders.miningco.com/mpchat.htm
- Chat with Ian Browne cbs.sportsline.com/u/baseball/mlb/1998/stove/stovechat.htm
- Infinity Factory ssound.pseudo.com
- Sailing Forum talkcity.com/calendar/events/event372.html
- Wee Furry Folk communities.msn.com/pets/chat.asp
- 88 Hip-Hop 88hiphop.com/index.asp?showid=24
- 20-Something Parents www.ivilage.com/chat/today/0,2123,N-4,00.html
- Live Elephant House Video Conferences www.si.edu/organiza/museums/zoo/zooview/exhibits/elehouse/vidconf.htm
- Chat with Dear Dan chat.abcnews.go.com/chat/chat.dl?room=abc_deardan
- Ferret Talk www.greencafe.com/ferret
- Scuba Radio www.audionet.com/shows/scubaradio
- MoneyCentral Live! moneycentral.msn.com/articles/common/radio.asp
- Walden talkcity.com/calendar/events/event680.html
- Great Books Chat killdevilhill.com/chat/greatbookslive/chat.cgi
- Click Forward: Up & Coming
- Summer of Sam www.summerofsam.com
- Return of the Grievous Angel www.almosounds.com
- The American Century: Art and Culture 1900-2000 www.artmuseum.net
- Click Star Tracks
- Anthony Michael Hall www.hallofmirrors.com
- Click Charts
- Yahoo! Chat chat.yahoo.com
- ESPN.com www.espn.com
- Deja News www.dejanews.com
- Ticketmaster Online www.ticketmaster.com
- Media Metrix www.mediametrix.com
- Amazon.com amazon.com
- CDnow www.cdnw.com

- Artnet.com www.artnet.com
- CNET www.download.com
- Click Attitude
- VH1 atWork www.vh1.com
- The WELL www.well.com
- DirectWeb www.directweb.com
- Gobi www.gobi.com
- Hotmail www.hotmail.com

E-Z USER (PAGES 56-62)

- Infoseek www.infoseek.com
- AltaVista www.altavista.com
- Search Engine Watch www.searchenginewatch.com
- MailStart Plus www.mailstartplus.com
- Clickmarks.com www.clickmarks.com
- Devhead www.devhead.com
- Fortress Web Design www.fortressdesign.com
- Ask the Surf Guru www.surf-guru.com
- ClipTrakker 1.1 www.cliptrakker.com
- ClipMagic 2.0 www.clipmagic.com
- ClipCache 2.19 www.xrayz.demon.co.uk
- MegaConverter www.megaconverter.com
- Neat Net Tricks www.neatnettricks.com
- AOL NetMail 2.0 netmail.web.aol.com
- Daily Double Download www.doubledownload.com
- Register.com www.register.com
- Identify! www.imptec.com
- GoBack www.goback.com
- Internet Explorer 5.0 www.microsoft.com/windows/ie
- Net E-Z User www.ezuser.com

E-Z SHOPPER (PAGE 64)

- Constitution Lobsters & Clambakes www.lobsterclambake.com
- Kitchen & Home Buyer's Club www.kitchenandhome.com
- The Village Hat Shop www.villagehatshop.com
- Henry's Gallery www.henrysgallery.com
- Better Business Bureau www.bbb.org
- eBay www.ebay.com
- MoonShop www.moonshop.com

COOL TOOLS (PAGES 66-68)

- Sharp www.sharp-usa.com
- infoGear Technology Corp. www.infogear.com

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Gateway Essential 400C

- ☐ Apple Computer Inc. www.apple.com
- ☐ Dobbs-Stanford Corp.
www.dobbsstanford.com
- ☐ CMI Worldwide www.cmiworldwide.com
- ☐ Yan Can Cook www.yancancook.com
- ☐ Van Koevering www.vankoevering.com

TOUCHED BY THE NET (PAGES 78-79)

- ☐ Database of Award-Winning Children's Literature www2.wcoil.com/~ellerbee/childlit.html
- ☐ The Children's Literature Web Guide www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown
- ☐ The JASON Project www.jasonproject.org
- ☐ Rainbow Maker's World www.zianet.com/rainbow
- ☐ Peace Corps Kids World www.peacecorps.gov/kids
- ☐ Gloria's Place of Hope Inc.
www.gloriasplaceofhope.org
- ☐ Survivors of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill
www.exxonvaldez.org
- ☐ Exxon www.exxon.com

Y-LIFE INTERVIEW: NET TRADING SKEPTIC (PAGES 80-83)

- ☐ Bloomberg.com www.bloomberg.com
- ☐ Intuit www.intuit.com
- ☐ Yahoo! Finance finance.yahoo.com

OLD WAY/NET WAY (PAGES 106-107)

- ☐ Dog Food Comparison Chart
www.aloha.com/~wolfepack/food.html
- ☐ Petco www.petco.com
- ☐ Macy's: The Bridal & Gift Registry
www.macysbridal.com
- ☐ Inflation Calculator
www.westegg.com/inflation

NEW, NOTABLE & FUN (PAGES 118-119)

- ☐ Salon.com www.salon.com
- ☐ Disney.com www.disney.com
- ☐ Amazon.com Auctions auctions.amazon.com
- ☐ Jokes.com www.jokes.com
- ☐ FX www.fxnetworks.com
- ☐ Backstage Pass www.backstage-pass.com
- ☐ Newcity.com www.newcity.com

- ☐ The Picture Collection
www.thepicturecollection.com
- ☐ Mark Boyle Photography: Images of Australia www.iinet.net.au/~mboyle
- ☐ Zeeks.com www.zeeks.com
- ☐ Sanity Central.com www.sanitycentral.com
- ☐ Trouble www.trouble.co.uk
- ☐ Spin.com www.spin.com
- ☐ Melon DeSign www.melondezign.com
- ☐ Jobs.com www.jobs.com
- ☐ Investor-Advice www.investoradvice.com
- ☐ Scrawl www.scrawl.org
- ☐ Ms. Magazine www.ms magazine.com
- ☐ The Century: America's Timeline
www.historychannel.com/centurytime
- ☐ The Minus Y2K Bug www.athenet.net/~jlindsay/my2k.shtml

PRETTY STRANGE (PAGE 144)

- ☐ The Fella Whose Big Toe Could Predict Earthquakes www.pacificcoast.net/~rick
- ☐ PX: Direct www.pxdirect.com
- ☐ HeyIdiot.com www.heyidiot.com
- ☐ The Lipstick Librarian!
www.teleport.com/~petlin/liplib
- ☐ Milky Elephant www.milkyelephant.com
- ☐ The Bunnies Strike Back
marks.networktel.net
- ☐ Bunny Survival Tests Home Page
www.pcola.gulf.net/~irving/bunnies
- ☐ Pretty Strange www.prettystrange.com

"THE BEST" OF WEB SITE REVIEWS GUEST REVIEW: NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE (PAGES 120-121)

- ☐ Native American Sites www.pitt.edu/~lmlitten/indians.html
- ☐ First Nations Website
www.schoolnet.ca/aboriginal
- ☐ Welcome to Hanksville!
hanksville.phast.umass.edu
- ☐ Native American Indian
indy4.fdl.cc.mn.us/~isk

INDEPENDENCE DAY (PAGE 122)

- ☐ ushistory.org www.ushistory.org
- ☐ Happy 4th of July www.aristotle.net/july4th

FINANCING A HOUSE (PAGE 124)

- ☐ MSN HomeAdvisor homeadvisor.msn.com
- ☐ Realtor.com www.realtor.com
- ☐ HomeScout www.homescout.com

SAFETY & FIRST AID (PAGE 126)

- ☐ Water Safety & First Aid
canoe.miningco.com/msub1.htm

FESTIVAL GUIDES (PAGE 128)

- ☐ Festivals.com www.festivals.com
- ☐ FestivalFinder www.festivalfinder.com

BEACHES (PAGE 129)

- ☐ Best Beaches in the USA
www.petrax.com/beaches
- ☐ OceanBlue www.oceanblue.com

HORSEBACK RIDING (PAGE 130)

- ☐ Equitour Worldwide Riding Holidays
www.ridingtours.com

TRAVEL WITH KIDS (PAGE 132)

- ☐ Family.com: Travel
family.go.com/Categories/Travel
- ☐ Great Outdoor Recreation Pages: Family
www.gorp.com/gorp/eclectic/family.htm

SEXUAL THRILLERS (PAGE 134)

- ☐ Coming Attractions by Corona: *Eyes Wide Shut* www.corona.bc.ca/films/details/eyeswideshut.html
- ☐ LynchNet: The David Lynch Resource
www.mikedunn.com/lynch

JAM BANDS (PAGE 136)

- ☐ JamBands.com www.jambands.com
- ☐ Pause/Record www.pauserrecord.com

ASTROLOGY (PAGE 138)

- ☐ Astrology Matrix thenewage.com
- ☐ Rob Breznsky's Real Astrology
www.realastrology.com
- ☐ Astrology Source www.astrology.ca

JUNK FOOD (PAGE 140)

- ☐ Candy Direct www.candydirect.com

9 or more and Internet access is included for a year.¹

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- 6X DVD-ROM Drive & MPEG2 Decoder
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
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'Music Now Has No Value'

As a songwriter who recently launched a music-publishing Web site to license songs and collect royalties, I'd like to say that MP3 is a major threat to what I'm trying to accomplish ["The Great MP3 Wars," April '99, page 97]. I'm not a recording artist. I don't do live gigs. Therefore, putting MP3 versions of my company's songs out on the Internet would only make my music completely worthless.

It's sickening to see **MP3.com** [www.mp3.com] selling banner ads on their site—for hardware players, etc.—and claiming to be the "little guy's friend," when in fact they are taking advantage of people who are desperate. They're gonna get your unknown music out there for the masses to buy. Buy? Why should anyone buy it when everyone thinks it should be free? Music now has no value.

It has been reduced to a "file format."

Songwriters will have no justification for going into a recording studio and pouring their sweat and hard-earned dollars into making recordings that are going to be deemed worthless. Studio owners will have to close their doors, too. And why should I press 5,000 CDs when some idiot uploads my songs to some of these pirate sites, and everyone gets it for nothing?

I'm certainly not against technological innovation. I love working with Logic Audio on my Mac, with a Philips CD-RW drive, and with a slew of other hardware and software. But MP3 is not the musician's friend. It is the total opposite.

—JOHN MAZURKIEWICZ
mazmania@earthlink.net

But What About the Solipsistics?

I am completely upset about your article "The Day the Music Sucked" [April

'99, page 100]. You are supposed to be an authority on Internet life; how wrong you are! I would appreciate another story by someone else who will take the time to actually investigate the music that is available on MP3.com, as well as the artists on my site, **52nd Stream Media** [www.listen.to/52].

Here is my reply to the author: If your skills were up to par for a working journalist, you would have found hundreds of bands with original, inspiring music that *will* raise the bar in the music industry! To see how low it is set today, all you have to do is watch the Grammy Awards or listen to the Top 10 songs on the *Billboard* charts. I will take MP3.com artists over *Billboard's* any day! By going to the MP3.com Top 40, you took the lazy approach. For you to say such unoriginal, trite crap about the music on MP3.com, you must have not listened to CrackHouse Music, the Pennies, Chaz, the Air Conditioners, the Solipsistics, Cooler, Hip-monk, Muffy Panics, and many more! A lot can be found at [www.mp3.com/bashpop]. Go there or search MP3.com and find the others; you will see how wrong you are! I can safely say that all of these bands have a tremendous future, regardless of the drivel that you spout and the negativism you throw around so easily.

—TOM FLORIAN

PRESIDENT, 52ND STREAM MEDIA
info52@bluegrass.net


It Takes a Whole Lot of Readers to Make a Magazine

I frequently find your magazine informative, and sometimes entertaining. For a Christian, though, it is very disheartening to see all that is happening in this corrupt world. What prompted me to write is a small blurb that has a *big* impact. In the baseball cybercasts article ["Take Me into the Ball Game," June '99, page 104], assistant editor Michael Freidson says of AOL's baseball cybercasting that there is a combined forum and chat room, allowing fans to root for the home team "with-

Click on a masterpiece.



State-of-the-art art

A large, white shark is shown from a low angle, swimming upwards. Inside its open mouth, a person is visible, appearing to be surfing or riding the shark's tongue. The background is a deep blue, suggesting an underwater environment.

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out having to see that guy with the John 3:16 sign." Mr. Freidson has no clue as to how desperately all mankind needs to see that sign, research it, and grasp wholeheartedly the entire meaning of that verse.

Wake up! Read it! Research it! Give your heart to God!

—KJ WILLIAMS
oldbig1too@yahoo.com

Too Wide a Net

Ann Beeson ["Net Crusader," June '99, page 98] is absolutely correct: A major problem with censorship laws and with filters is that they cast far too wide a net, trampling on the rights of adults and children alike. A good example is that of my Web site, **Briane's Whinery** [www.colba.net/~briane], which is a comic look at the foibles of bureaucrats. There is no sexual imagery and no porn. Still, many of the filters in schools and libraries block the site. The satire is such that my humor has no appeal to children, but there is nothing offensive, either (well, there is the story about the young man who was arrested for having his way with a chain-link fence...but still).

Ann, keep up the good fight!
—BRIANE MCLEAN
brianem@beneflex-mysis.com

Apple Is Evil—Not!

I certainly didn't appreciate the graphic that went with the tidbit about Yaromat.com ["Neat Net Tricks," May '99, page 56]. I don't know what you guys were trying to say by showing Snow White's evil stepmother offering an apple, but to me it seemed to say, "Apple is evil, and no good can come of having a Mac." If you want to talk evil, talk about Microsoft. Please don't make Apple look like the bad guy!

—BILL KALB
MacMan911@aol.com

Eight Days a Week—and More

The *Y-Life* Editor's Note "Revolution on Campus," in the May '99 issue [page

12], states, "Of the approximately 5.3 million full-time students in four-year colleges in the U.S., 90 percent use the Internet, and half are on the Web daily or more often...."

This sounds like a fascinating concept. If I go back to college, I should be able to catch up on all my daily work because there will be the "more often" time frame, which will allow me to have extra days in the week.

I hope this concept doesn't turn out like the international date line. I gained a day when I crossed it, but still can't predict a Derby winner. What's even worse is the fact that I can't predict what you'll feature in *Y-Life* until I purchase my badly needed monthly dose of interesting feature articles and valuable information.

—BILL EGAN
media@n-jcenter.com

Got us. Our editor should have written, "once a day or more often." —Ed.

An Exceptional View

Just picked up the current edition of *Y-Life*—the college edition [May '99]. In "The Big 10!" [page 98], I must take exception to the selection of Student Advantage as "coolest college lifestyle Web hub." I am an independent researcher, looking into college sites for a client. I have no vested interest. I find **College Club** [www.collegeclub.com] to have it *way* over SA when it comes to depth and breadth and content and things students probably like to do. I think you should have a "site-off." Line up a bunch of students, let them browse both, and then tell you what they think. SA content is not refreshed daily. It's just a lot of articles. Boorrrriinnnggg! What SA does have is some good discount arrangements with national partners—in that regard, College Club needs to get its act in gear. But CC has the magic number for college students: *free*.

—SUSYN CONWAY
Conway001@erols.com

Bowie's Golden Years

In your April '99 issue, the cover story, "Thin Wired Duke" [page 92], revolves around David Bowie and his ISP, **Davidbowie.com** [www.davidbowie.com]. I checked out the aging rocker's site, and I cannot believe what a mess it is. The graphics on the front page are a blurry hodgepodge. I looked at his supposed "art-work" and saw the paint-program doodlings a child would do. I also think the poses Bowie struck in your magazine photo shoot are laughable. Who does this guy think he is?

—PAT WHITE
Patwhite@Stringsound.com

Infoseek Sought

Glad to see someone else besides me is aggravated with the way **Yahoo!** [www.yahoo.com] displays search results ["Search Alert," June '99, page 68]. I've long been a fan of **Infoseek** [www.infoseek.com] and the way they organize their Directory Topics. I also prefer Infoseek's ability to "search within these results"—which allows me to start my search on a broad topic, then narrow it down to more-relevant hits.

—TERESA WHITE
bomblond@mindless.com

World Wide

I just want to thank you for your useful magazine. We don't have this kind of Web news in Asia, and we appreciate your work.

Best regards from Singapore.
—KHUN NADOU SAMITRA
khunnadou@hotmail.com

Letter of Credit

I appreciated the comments made by John Robards in his "Trust and Consequences" note ["Backchat," June '99, page 30]. Indeed, the irrational fear of sex and technology he mentioned may well lead to something truly scary—a government bureaucracy to watch the Web. With all the money and power to be had, this could wind up being the next War on Drugs.

—DR. STEPHEN B. MASON
DrSBMason@aol.com

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we also discovered at these locales
were piles of duct tape, bungee
cords and all manner of make-shift

(INTERIOR BIKE RACK)

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around the net

LIFESTYLES

OF THE WELL CONNECTED



JIMMY SMITS

It's been a while since Jimmy Smits bared his butt on *NYPD Blue*. More recently, we found him not at some swanky New York or L.A. club but at the launch of a General Motors Web site. "Whoa! Cyberspace!" Smits exclaimed, sitting on a stool before a big-screen simulation of a wild ride around the Net.

Hokey, though Smits's less-than-incredible journey was for a good cause—namely, 50 Internet-ready computers delivered to Smits's alma mater, Brooklyn's Thomas Jefferson High School, courtesy of GM. "In order for young people to compete, they have to know about the Internet," says Smits, "especially in a disadvantaged community." Smits's own Net angel was an *NYPD Blue* cameraman. "I'm an AOL kind of guy," says the frequent e-mailer. "When I'm on the set in a new place, I use MapQuest to find out where I'm going." And, it seems, some lucky Brooklynites are benefiting from Smits's newfound Net smarts.

—M.F.



MEMORABLE SITE

Lost and Found

FORMER CHILD STAR CENTRAL

[members.tripod.com/~former_child_star]

In Hollywood, falling into obscurity is considered an offense far worse than falling onto the wrong side of the law. But many child actors meet one of these fates (and sometimes even both). For every Patty Duke, Ron Howard, or Alyssa Milano, there's *Eight Is Enough*'s Adam Rich and the entire non-adult cast of *Diff'rent Strokes* (including the late Dana Plato). Scooter Nelson's Former Child Star Central finds these lost souls. Brandon Cruz, for example, edits *South Park* episodes. Butch Patrick is holding on with his successful *Munsters*-themed Web site [www.munsters.com]. And Mindy Cohn—yes, that charming *Facts of Life* alumna—is, yes, actually still an actress. For even more obscure faces, one can write to the site's Missing Persons section with special requests, or subscribe to a monthly newsletter of updates. This stirring tribute makes for perfect surfing during this season of reruns, and it proves that online, at least, you're still famous if someone remembers you.

—M.F.

THE CLICK CLIQUE: Steven J. Bennett, James Oliver Cury, Dean Foust, Michael Freidson, David Kushner, Reuben Maness, Marc Saltzman. **Write to Click@zd.com.**



NET OBSESSIONS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & TRENDS



SALMA HAYEK

This diminutive spitfire stands tall and proud on the Web, where her pin-ups, like her appearance in *Wild Wild West*, prove she's *muy caliente* with Net fans.

YAHOO! SITE COUNT: 12. Start @: **SALMA HAYEK: THE UNOFFICIAL SITE** [www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Studio/1268]



SUMMER '69

It was a busy season: Astronaut Neil Armstrong took a "giant leap," then droves of Woodstock-goers embarked on faraway trips of their own. **YAHOO! SITE COUNT:** 15. Start @: **THE HISTORY PLACE: APOLLO 11** [www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/apollo11] and **WOODSTOCK** [www.prismnet.com/~ssor/add1/woodstock.html]

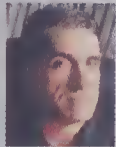


BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

The Boss's glory days are far from over, as shown by his hit reunion tour with the E Street Band and a devout fan following on the Web. **YAHOO! SITE COUNT:** 21. Start @: **THE BOSS** [www.msn.fullfeed.com/~ptblank/boss]

Q+A

ROBERT PINSKY America's Poet Takes On the Web



Can poetry move surfers as readily as other forms of Web entertainment?

Robert Pinsky thinks so. That's why, as our 39th poet laureate, he has initiated the **FAVORITE POEM PROJECT** [www.favoritepoem.org], an archive of poetry readings.

Y-LIFE: What was the genesis of this virtual salon?

PINSKY: Fellow poet Frank Bidart and I were watching a video of a Willie Nelson performance, and we saw people cheering and applauding. Frank said, "Now, that's what a poetry reading ought to feel like!" And I said, "It's easy for him; he doesn't do all his own material." That's how we got the idea.

Y-LIFE: Does the Net enhance poetry's appreciation?

PINSKY: Yes. Online, there is an emphasis on writing, and there's ready access to effective self-publication. Also, with [audio tools], one can hear a poem as well as read it.

Y-LIFE: How do you pick the works?

PINSKY: Variety is very important. And certainly classic American poetry—Dickinson, Whitman, Frost—must be represented.

Y-LIFE: Planning to hold any celebrity poetry readings?

PINSKY: No...the focus is on civic life, though we are interested in including prominent civic figures: the president, congresspeople, justices...educators, etc.

Y-LIFE: What sites does a poet laureate deem good reading?

PINSKY: *Slate* and *Favorite Poem*...I also use the Book-of-the-Month Club's literary calendar for my segment on PBS's *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*.

"I just pulled it off AOL with my own eyes. I think it's completely valid."

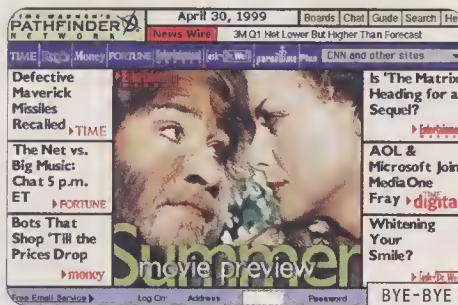
—IMPULSIVE NET JOURNALIST MATT DRUDGE, describing to the Associated Press his intensive research and fact-checking process for the *Drudge Report* article in which he reported a Trench Coat Mafioso conspiracy surrounding the Littleton, Colorado, shootings.

"I said, 'He bought a \$400,000 bedroom suite.'...She said, 'I'm hyperventilating.'"

6699

—AUBREY GARRET, AN AUCTION DEALER, recounting his conversation with the mother of Andrew Tyler, a 13-year-old surfer who placed bids on \$2.8 million worth of merchandise at eBay, to the *New York Post*. The boy's "purchases" included a Van Gogh painting, a Viking ship replica, and a medical center.

NET BRIEFS



MILESTONES: DECEASED. Pathfinder, the online hub for *Entertainment Weekly*, *Fortune*, and *People*, among other print titles, has died at age 5—of euthanasia. Publisher Time Warner says that surfers are now savvy enough to find its magazines without a connecting home page.... **THE DOMAIN-NAME GAME.** America Online and four other firms have been chosen to assign new Web addresses, joining Network Solutions Inc. and the U.S. government as domain purveyors. The move could mean less-expensive "dot-coms" down the

road.... **FAKING STOCK.** Gary Dale Hoke, an alleged North Carolina con artist, was arrested recently and charged with committing securities fraud online. Authorities say that Hoke used a bogus Web site to "report" the takeover of his employer, PairGain Technologies. The firm's stock (NASDAQ: PAIR) jumped 31 percent after the announcement, but then crashed.... **WHEN CHRISTINE SCHMIDT'S** 20-month-old daughter disappeared in July 1998, the distraught Minnesota mom issued a public appeal via e-mail for leads. The girl was found a day later, but the e-mail kept circulating—and would-be tipsters from as far as England and China are still calling her local police. If only e-mails were as disposable as milk cartons.... **THIS MONTH, AL GORE** and major Internet companies (including America Online and AT&T) introduce the Parents' Protection Page, a universal resource, linkable from home pages, that offers monitoring tools for parents. Big mother is watching. —M.F.

MINDING THE MEDIA

In the wake of the Littleton, Colorado, shootings, the first week's news reports revealed that one of the two high-school gunmen had authored a hateful Web site—and thus began the Net-as-an-accessory trend. *Y-Life's* report card grades some news outlets that excelled in reporting the facts, and those who deserve detention.

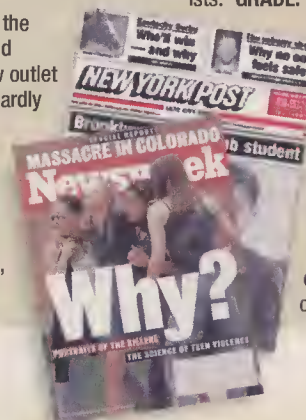
THE NEW YORK TIMES. Columnist Thomas L. Friedman calls the Net "an incredible knowledge tool and an incredible microphone for hate," and suggests parents increase their awareness of kids' surfing habits. **GRADE: A.** Obviously, an advanced Net pupil.

TIME. Chris Taylor concludes that the Net, and such games as *Doom* and *Quake*, "may be giving kids a new outlet for their dark fantasies, but that hardly means it is turning them into killers." **GRADE: B+.** Future salutatorian?

NEWSWEEK. Steven Levy: "Criticizing the reach of the...Web is like blaming paper for bad poetry." **GRADE: A.** A joy to have in class.

SALON [www.salon.com]. Columnist James Poniewozik cites broadcast media for being too ready to blame the Web: "There are all sorts of Net dangers worth checking out here, not for unsuspecting youth, but for doe-eyed, credulous journalists." **GRADE: B+.** A tattletale...with a good point.

NEW YORK POST. "Being computer illiterate has robbed me of some of the finer things in life," writes Steve Dunleavy. "For instance, I can't learn how to make a bomb.... I can't contact someone for an orgy. And damn it, I can't even stare silently for hours in a darkened room to the point where my vocal cords atrophy." **GRADE: D.** B for originality; fails on perspective. —M.F.



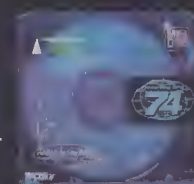
SONY



THERE'S ABSOLUTELY
NO BETTER WAY TO
RECORD YOUR MUSIC.

A recording should be as crisp and clear as the original. That's not always the case when you record from CD to cassette. The recordable MiniDisc Walkman® Personal Stereo digitally dubs your music so it sounds just like* the way you first heard it. Plus, unlike recordable CDR where the recording is permanent, the Sony MiniDisc is re-recordable up to a million times. Additionally, the MiniDisc Walkman is so small it fits in your shirt pocket. Re-recordable. Portable. Digital. MiniDisc.

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www.sonymusic.com/minidisc



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TOOLS

Try as you might, you can't get your business associates (and even friends) to stop sending faxes. It may be impossible to reform their circa-1995 ways, but you can change the way you receive these mis-sives. A recently introduced Net service, **EFAX.COM** [www.efax.com], assigns fax-haters who register at its site a new "fax number" to put on their business cards. When this number receives faxes, eFax converts the documents to e-mails as they pass through the eFax hub, then sends them to the e-mail address of your choosing. To read these former paper pages, you use eFax's free Microviewer software (e-mailed to you upon registration). There's no charge for registering or subscribing, because the service is ad-revenue based. Who ever liked faxes anyway?



BUDDING WEB-PAGE AUTHORS, take note: A site without animation is less exciting than a

1985 Huey Lewis video. But **GIFWORKS** [www.gifworks.com], a freebie online tool,

lets you create enough appealing animations and text enhancements to keep surfers clicking within—as opposed to away from—your HTML-laden labor of love. True, this online application isn't a full-blown animation package. But until you're ready to offer *Futurama* some serious competition, this Graphics 101 helper will likely do the trick. —S.J.B.



HARRY CAMPBELL



MONEY

Help Wanted: Night Traders on the Web

Forget day trading. Soon you'll be able to "night trade" along with the Wall Street pros after the stock markets have closed. Eclipse Trading, a Web start-up, will soon hold trading hours for more than 100 stocks on weeknights between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. EST. Now, even small investors can act on late-breaking news before the morning trading rush. Investors using **DISCOVER BROKERAGE** [www.discoverbrokerage.com] will be the first to benefit from the service, with Eclipse signing on more brokers over the next few months. **WIT CAPITAL** [www.witcapital.com] reports after-hours systems of its own in the works. But lest you think this is the greatest investment innovation since mutual funds, Ron Kelemen, a certified financial planner in Salem, Oregon, says this minitrend furthers Wall Street's increasingly short-term mentality, particularly among small

search results	
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CAT (JULY 21)	
Cat Stevens	5,260
Connie Stevens	804
Saint Stephen	13,912
Darrin Stephens	42



EVERETT COLLECTION

investors. "[They are] not even focusing on the next quarter any more, but the next 15 minutes," laments Kelemen. He fears that these small players may make decisions based on less information than their Wall Street counterparts, who have access to conference calls with company executives. "They won't be playing with a full deck," he adds. —D.F.



MONEY

If bigger businesses get volume discounts (and they do), where does that leave the mom-and-pop shops of our burgeoning digital economy? You can probably find a few of them

browsing at **ACCOMPANY** [www.accompany.com], a new Web shoppers' club for small-business goods. It's a novel idea: The site negotiates volume-purchase discounts with hardware and software manufacturers, then solicits buying commitments from shoppers on these products. Discounts rise as the number of "buy-ins" increases.

For example, each person in a five-member Palm Pilot V buying group would pay \$390 for the handheld organizer, which retails for \$449; incremental discounts would apply as the group gains more buyers. When its ranks reach 31 to 50 members, the price drops to \$350. Though computer items predominate on the site at present, Accompany's expansion plans include 10 categories of both household and business merchandise, making that bulk purchase of No. 2 pencils all the easier. Indeed, there is power in numbers. —D.F.



@hope



www.disasterrelief.org is an IBM e-business.

Want to help? With IBM Web technology, the American Red Cross can show you where and when you're needed most.

IBM

WEBCAMWATCH



THE ULTIMATE TAXI

[www.ultimatetaxi.com]

Worlds turn in the back of a taxi. People come and go. Babies are born (and sometimes even made). What better place to set up a Webcam? Jon Barnes is an intrepid taxi driver in Aspen, Colorado, who has turned his cab into a multimedia theater called **THE ULTIMATE TAXI**. Riders pay for a tour of the slopes, and Barnes beams their adventures onto the Web. He has set up a page for notable passengers (from snow-blown tourists to gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson). Visitors can post messages on his boards or maybe find him in a live chat. And don't worry—when he types, he pulls over. —D.K.

EXTREEMELY SPECIALIZED SITES

**THE WHIPPING SCENES
IN MOVIES VIDEO CATALOG**
www.wsimd.com/wsim/wsim.htm

DEATH BY CURRY
www.geocities.com/NapaValley/6654

JAPANESE HIPPIEDOM
village.infoweb.or.jp/~fxba0053

**ATLAS OF TENNESSEE
VASCULAR PLANTS**
www.bio.utk.edu/botany/
herbarium/vascular/atlas.html

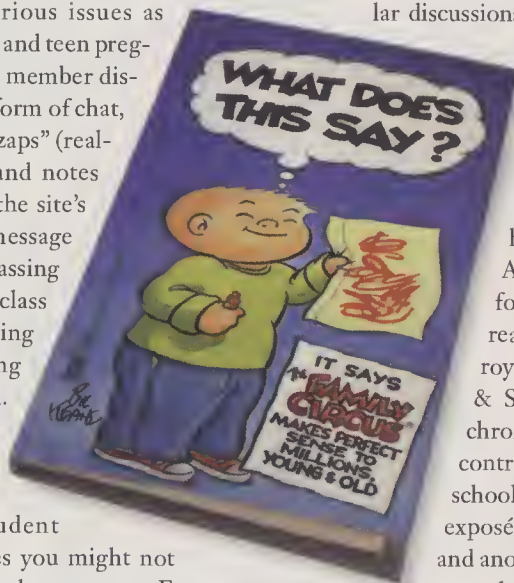


W E B V I L L E

DROPPING IN ON SOME OF THE NET'S GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES

LUNCHTIME AT TEEN CENTRAL

Spending time at **BOLT** [www.bolt.com], a boisterous teen hangout, is akin to joining a gossip lunchroom gab. Topics include how to dump someone, how to find someone, the virtues of practical hemp clothing, and also such serious issues as domestic violence and teen pregnancy. Elsewhere, member discussions take the form of chat, message boards, "zaps" (real-time messages), and notes (which travel via the site's internal private-message system); it's like passing notes in biology class with no fear of being caught and getting sent to detention. But beyond the chats, the site's News & Issues area features student coverage of stories you might not see in a high-school newspaper. For example, the site recently ran an article, banned from a student newspaper, about an Illinois teacher accused of sexual harassment. Perhaps this open-forum atmosphere is the reason behind this site's rapid growth; it now claims more than 200,000 members. That's one big lunchroom. —D.K.



IMPROMPTU SETTLEMENTS

DISCOVERED AT AMAZON.COM

Selected discussion-board repartee at **AMAZON.COM** [www.amazon.com] confirms that a Web "community" needn't be some prefab settlement of happy chat. In fact, a community of gypsy philosophers has taken a conversation regarding *Daddy's Cap Is on Backwards* (Fawcett Books, 1996), a collection of *The Family Circus* works by cartoonist Bil Keane, one giant (and welcome) step away from the normal forum blather. "Keane is the most important cultural dissident this country has ever produced," posts one reader. Another employs the spirit, if not the exact words, of Michel Foucault: "Jeffy is the extension of the

apparatus, the intertextual echo of a system trapped within itself, struggling to exist." The innocence of Keane's decades-old strip, which depicts a family with four mischievous—and ostensibly likable—children, makes it an easy target, so you'll find similar discussions attached to *What Does*

This Say? and other

Keane anthologies, with inspiration from such 20th-century greats as Samuel Beckett and Ayn Rand.... Less humorous among the Amazon.com reader forums is the community reaction to James T. McElroy's *We've Got Spirit* (Simon & Schuster, 1999), which chronicles the struggles of a controversial Kentucky high-school cheerleading team. The exposé details one pregnancy and another girl's possibly adulterous love affair—content that's

proven to be a bit too rich for some of those mentioned within the book's tell-all pages. "My friends have suffered," posts one cheerleader, making it clear that the community doesn't exactly embrace McElroy. "I know that controversy sells, but [the author] could've found a much more constructive way to use it." Even if *We've Got Spirit* doesn't make your summer-reading list, consider printing out these posts and bringing them poolside for a change of pace. —M.F.

TOP CLUBS

The most popular Yahoo! clubs. To visit each, type clubs.yahoo.com and then the club name.

CLUBS.YAHOO.COM

- 1 Hanson
- 2 Rendezvous
- 3 A Pen Pal Club
- 4 Boyfriend and Girlfriend Alley
- 5 'N Sync Official Club
- 6 Daytraders
- 7 Married and Flirting
- 8 Real Time Strategy
- 9 Yahoo! Pen Pals Club
- 10 Internet Stock News

Rankings reflect April data.





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>>>> Circumcision. Yes? No?
>>>> Anyone?

>>> I don't see what the
>>> big deal is. Don't all
>>> doctors agree it's best?

>> I heard there's no
>> medical basis, that
>> it's totally unnecessary.

> My advice: do it before
> he has memory cells.

> Exchange ideas on practically anything.



THE PLAYERS

MULTIPLAYER PICKS

The five most popular game titles at GameStorm.

- 1 AIR WARRIOR III
- 2 Legends of Kesmai
- 3 Rolemaster: Magestorm
- 4 Jack Nicklaus Online Golf Tour
- 5 MultiPlayer BattleTech

Rankings reflect April traffic at www.gamestorm.com



MECHWARRIOR 3

TOP DEMOS

Happy Puppy's most popular tryouts.

- 1 MECHWARRIOR 3
- 2 Kingpin: Life of Crime
- 3 Star Wars: X-Wing Alliance
- 4 Tanks 95
- 5 Starsiege

April downloads at www.happypuppy.com



LEVI HALL

is a winning Spades player on the MSN Gaming Zone [www.zone.com].

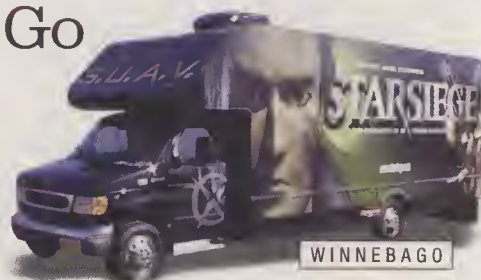
VITALS: 30-year-old dock superintendent from Seattle, Washington

HIS THREE BEST TIPS:

1. Only bid double nil [zero] if you have nothing to lose—when defeat is near, or you need to erase a huge deficit near the game's end.
2. Always set your opponent [hold him to less than his bid] if you can. It usually makes him bid more conservatively, which can help you catch up or increase your lead.
3. Don't get caught counting certain cards as automatic tricks. Count your whole hand. If you're long in a suit, even an ace can be vulnerable.

Gaming on the Go

Does the mere mention of an RV make you think of Naugahyde dinette sets, tacky curtains, and polyester-clad barbecuers? In commissioning its Starsiege Universe Assault Vehicle, a \$150,000 custom-built Winnebago RV, Dynamix banished those accoutrements in favor of a "computer gaming system of the future." The game publisher's roving, 29-foot mobile home—equipped with a Falcon Northwest Pentium III PC, a 5-by-6-foot projection screen, surround-sound speakers, neon accent lighting, and captain's chairs—is where fans of such Dynamix action titles as **STARSIEGE** and **STARSIEGE: TRIBES** [www.starsiege.com] can try out this big-screen experience in 15 U.S. cities throughout 1999. "This is where gaming is going," says Jeff Hoff, Dynamix's vice pres-



ident of marketing. "In a couple of years, every serious gamer will have a theater experience like this in their home, and we want them to get a taste of it now." Echoing the Net's auction mania, Dynamix will put the SUAV on the block at **EBAY** [www.ebay.com] when it completes its tour of duty. And what if you get to play in the SUAV? Reports say it's very hard to go back to a "puny" 17-inch monitor and tinny speakers after sampling this joystick nirvana. —M.S.

G A M I N G R O U N D U P

SPORTS GAMING NETWORK

Skip the gaming zines and go directly to this site, which is dedicated to news, reviews, interviews, demos, cheat codes, patches, and chats for all the latest sports games online. *Free; PC and Mac* [www.sports-gaming.com]

EVERQUEST

Feel like playing a "noble knight," "greedy dwarven merchant," or "dark elf thief" today? You can have it all in one of the Station's newest "massively multiplayer" fantasies. Join thousands of online players as they roam through dungeons, towers, crypts, and evil abbeys. So much for being stuck in a dead-end job. *989 Studios; \$44.99, plus \$9.89 a month after a free 30-day trial period; PC only* [www.station.sony.com/everquest]

THE STONE

In many cases, you need to buy soft-

ware to play a game online. Here, it's jewelry—a necklace, to be exact—that's your ticket to action. Once you've purchased **THE STONE** (use the site's store finder to track down a retailer near you), log on and find your "Stonemate," the player whose Stone necklace markings match yours exactly. Ancient riddles and modern-day conspiracies stand in the way throughout your quest. *Abject Modernity Internet Creations Inc.; \$19.99; PC and Mac* [www.thestone.net]

PRIZEPOINT ENTERTAINMENT

One of the Web's more recent participants in a welcome gaming trend—the awarding of daily prizes of cash or merchandise—this site offers World Wrestling Federation Trivia (every Tuesday) and Codebreaker, a variation on the classic game Mastermind. *Free; PC* [www.prizepoint.com] —M.S.



EVERQUEST



57 work memos.

16 bad jokes.

7 ads for Wanda's
Weightloss Website.

Isn't it
about time
you started
looking
forward to
email again?



Not looking forward to email like you used to? Make your email cool again with Hasbro Interactive's email games™. Great games like Scrabble®, Battleship® and tons more that you can play with friends or family using email. Here's what you do: Start a game with someone using email—you send a move, they send one back, you send a move, they send one back. Get the picture? You can type in a personal message with every move, it's a great way to get in touch and stay in touch. Get your game for just \$14.95.* It's easy, it's fun, it's email people actually want to get. Now there's an idea!



For more info and a free demo, head to: www.emailgames.com

*Approximate Retail Price

©1999 Hasbro Interactive, Inc./Hasbro, Inc. All Rights Reserved. SCRABBLE is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.
Not compatible with some older email systems. Security systems may prevent play over some corporate networks.

YAHOO! INTERNET LIVE

WHEN & WHERE ON THE WEB

A *Y-Life* sampler of lively Net events. Daily updates at www.ylive.com

Times are Eastern, unless otherwise specified.

SUNDAYS

10 P.M.

DR. LOGAN CHAMBERLAIN

The good doctor shares stories and sage advice about using medicinal herbs. www.talkamerica.com/chamberlain.html

MONDAYS

6 P.M.

THE GREEN ROOM

Dorian Oeivins probes the brains of physicists, Nobel Prize winners, and other ridiculously intelligent people. www.wfmu.org/greenroom.html



7 P.M.

SLEEP DISORDERS CHAT

Can't sleep? Share the misery with others. sleepdisorders.miningco.com/mpchat.htm

TUESDAYS

3 P.M.

CHAT WITH IAN BRDWE

Bring your chew and rap with CBS SportsLine's baseball writer. cbs.sportsline.com/u/baseball/mlb/1998/stove/stovechat.htm

4 P.M.

INFINITY FACTORY

Host Richard Metzger takes on psychedelic drugs, UFOs, and other edgy topics. ssound.pseudo.com

9 P.M.

SAILING FORUM

Do some networking and trade sailing tips with fellow sea dogs. talkcity.com/calendar/events/event372.html

10 P.M.

WEE FURRY FOLK

Powwow for lovers of rats, mice, hamsters, and other small, furry critters. communities.msn.com/pets/chat.asp

WEDNESDAYS

10 P.M.

88 HIP-HOP

Interviews and live performances by rising hip-hop stars and well-known artists. 88hiphop.com/index.asp?showid=24



U P & C O M I N G

FILM

Spike Lee's work is well represented on the Web. Last year, the director's short-subject films were among the first big-name works to appear in full-screen RealPlayer G2 format. This month, read more about Lee's latest big-screen release, *SUMMER OF SAM*, at www.summerofsam.com. Using the 1976-77 New York serial murders by David Berkowitz—aka Son of Sam—as its backdrop, the film focuses on how a neighborhood gang and its leader (played by John Leguizamo) become obsessed with finding the killer. Mira Sorvino costars as Leguizamo's wife.

MUSIC

Whether or not you know of Gram Parsons (1946-1973), who is considered by many music buffs to be the first true country-rock star, you'll undoubtedly know the artists he's inspired, including Lucinda Williams, Cowboy Junkies, Wilco, and Sheryl Crow. *RETURN OF THE GRIEVOUS ANGEL*, a Parsons tribute due out this month, features cuts of his works as performed by these and other artists. The disc's official Web site [\[www.almosounds.com\]](http://www.almosounds.com) hosts liner

notes, RealAudio samples, and info about the Vietnam Veterans for a Landmine-Free World, the charity to which a portion of the album's proceeds will be donated. Parsons would have been proud. —J.O.C.

ART

New York's Whitney Museum of American Art, in partnership with Intel Corporation, presents part one of *THE AMERICAN CENTURY: ART AND CULTURE 1900-2000* [\[www.artmuseum.net\]](http://www.artmuseum.net). The site offers surfers an interactive slice of the more than 200 works—including painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, and design—featured in the exhibit. Part two debuts in September.



YAHOO! INTERNET LIVE

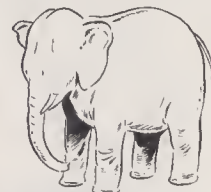
WHEN & WHERE ON THE WEB

THURSDAYS

NOON

20-SOMETHING PARENTS

How to change diapers and hide your Prozac from the kids. www.ivillage.com/chat/today/0,2123,N-4,00.html



1:30 P.M.

LIVE ELEPHANT HOUSE VIDEO CONFERENCES

Weekly seminar and pachyderm discussion from the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. www.si.edu/organiza/museums/zoo/zooview/exhibits/elehouse/vidconf.htm

FRIDAYS

4 P.M.

CHAT WITH DEAR OAN

The ins and outs of sex, hosted by advice guru Dan Savage. chat.abcnwsgo.com/chat/chat.dli?room=abc_deardan

6 P.M.

FERRET TALK

The singular Joe Liston hosts lively discussions on UFOs, architecture, and whatever else piques his interest. www.greencafe.com/ferret

SATURDAYS

9 A.M.

SCUBA RADIO

Submerge yourself in this discussion of gear, little-known diving spots, and other scuba topics. www.audionet.com/shows/scubaradio

1 P.M.

MONEYCENTRAL LIVE!

Discuss online investing and personal finance. moneycentral.msn.com/articles/common/radio.asp

DAILY AND OTHER

9 P.M.

WALDEN

A daily assessment of spirituality topics à la Henry David Thoreau. talkcity.com/calendar/events/event680.html

10:30 P.M.

THE GREAT BOOKS LIVE LIGHTHOUSE CHAT

Discuss the greatest hits of the Western canon with classics lovers. killdevilhill.com/chat/greatbookslive/chat.cgi

SUMMER OF SAM: DAVID LEE; PARSONS: GINNY WINN/MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES; TANGO: BY ELIE NADLMAN, COURTESY WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

DON'T CALL

IT A CAR

4WD

Let's be clear. This is not a car. We don't make cars. You can say it drives like a car. Drives as quietly as a car. But that doesn't make it a car. You can't help a friend move in a car. Or see past the car in front of you in a car. That's why we make the 1999 Isuzu Rodeo. With 205 horsepower and 81.1 cubic feet of cargo space, you can call it a truck. A sport utility vehicle. Heck, you can even call it Molly. Just don't call it a car, okay?



ISUZU

Go farther.

IT GETS MAD

Double Bill

The mid-'80s were all about Anthony Michael Hall, whether he was holding aloft Molly Ringwald's pilfered panties in *Sixteen Candles* or showering with a computer-generated Kelly LeBrock in *Weird Science*. In 1983, Hall began a partnership with writer/director John Hughes that carried him through a string of huge hits, including 1985's *The Breakfast Club*. But with 1986's ill-fated thriller *Out of Bounds*, Hall's grip on the zeitgeist began to loosen, as he passed out of puberty and into character-actor oblivion.

No longer the archetypal young dork, Hall is now playing the archetypal *older* dork, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, in TNT's docudrama *Pirates of Silicon Valley*. The film, which chronicles the birth of the personal-computer industry with a joint portrait of Gates and his chief rival, Apple Computer's Steve Jobs (played by *ER*'s Noah Wyle), appealed to Hall for its intellectual dimension.

"I guess those roles," he says of his early years, "represented the underdog or the nerdish character, the guy who was all about his studies. I understand that people see this role as a circle of sorts, but for me what was interesting was to analyze this guy's mind."

Eighties icon
Anthony Michael
Hall plays '90s icon
Bill Gates in a new
TV movie, *Pirates*
of *Silicon Valley*.

And what a mind it is. In the film, Gates not only founds the world's most successful software company but also plays poker, races bulldozers, sings "My Way" while speeding, and even visits a strip club.

"I was certainly intrigued by him," says Hall. "I think that Americans are interested in keeping up with the Joneses—in who has what. Why is Bill Gates so bad? I was excited to get into all this data." To prepare, Hall read *The Road Ahead*. He watched the documentary *Triumph of the Nerds*. He also, he boasts, visited the Microsoft Web site. "It really helped me investigate Gates; that's almost what I was doing: a complete and thorough investigation," he says. "He's got incredible willpower and a need to lead the way within the industry. I felt I had to take risks, to show the human dynamics."

Although Hall's own up-and-down career hasn't exactly paralleled Gates's, he hopes that the film drives traffic to his Web site [www.hallofmirrors.com]. Bent on certifying Hall as a Renaissance man, the site features sound samples from his latest funk opus, *Welcome to the Hall of Mirrors*. "Maintaining focus—that's the key," says Hall. "Bill Gates has an incredible determination. I, too, do the work and learn for myself."

—M.F.

Pirates of Silicon Valley premieres on TNT June 20, with encores through June 27.



GEORGE LANGE/TNT, INC.

Looking for answers about tobacco? You're in the right neighborhood.

Welcome to Main Street, the Brown & Williamson web site, your comprehensive resource for tobacco information.



Click on **THE COURTHOUSE** for information about:

- Trials in Progress
- Recent Developments
- Attorneys General Resolution
- And much more...



Click on **HOT TOPICS** for news about:

- Ways to Prevent Underage Smoking
- Tips on Quitting Smoking
- Cigarette Tobacco Ingredients
- Positions on Smoking and Health
- And more...



Click on **THE LIBRARY** for information about:

- Current Economic Impact of Tobacco
- Social History of Tobacco
- News Release Archives
- And more... we invite you to drop by the neighborhood anytime!

www.brownandwilliamson.com



BROWN & WILLIAMSON
TOBACCO

A Responsible Company In A Controversial Industry

LISTS & STATS

TOP CHATS

The month's best-attended get-togethers at Yahoo! Chat.

CHAT.YAHOO.COM

- 1 Jen LaPlante, survivor of Columbine High School shooting [4/21]
- 2 Yasmine Bleeth, actress [4/29]
- 3 Amber Smith, supermodel [4/29]
- 4 Andrew Keegan, actor [4/2]
- 5 Julia Stiles, actress [4/5]
- 6 Rider Strong, actor [4/23]
- 7 ▼ Carrie-Anne Moss, actress [4/20]



PACIA CORBIS

- 8 David Arquette, actor [4/5]
- 9 Orgy, rock group [4/29]
- 10 Mario Lopez, actor [4/21]

Rankings reflect April chat attendance.

TOP SPORTS EVENTS

This month's most heavily attended events at ESPN.com

WWW.ESPN.COM

- 1 The Masters, PGA [4/11]
- 2 Detroit Tigers vs. Seattle Mariners, MLB [4/29]
- 3 New York Yankees vs. Texas Rangers, MLB [4/27]
- 4 Detroit Tigers vs. New York Yankees, MLB [4/9]
- 5 Toronto Blue Jays vs. New York Yankees, MLB [4/25]
- 6 Milwaukee Brewers vs. St. Louis Cardinals, MLB [4/8]
- 7 Los Angeles Dodgers vs. Milwaukee Brewers, MLB [4/29]
- 8 San Diego Padres vs. New York Mets, MLB [4/29]
- 9 Colorado Rockies vs. St. Louis Cardinals, MLB [4/29]
- 10 Atlanta Braves vs. Colorado Rockies, MLB [4/18]

Rankings reflect April traffic patterns.

TOP TICKET SALES

The top-selling events at Ticketmaster Online.

WWW.TICKETMASTER.COM

- 1 Dave Matthews Band tour
- 2 'N Sync tour
- 3 George Strait tour
- 4 Jimmy Buffett tour
- 5 John Mellencamp tour
- 6 Shania Twain tour
- 7 World Wrestling Federation
- 8 New York Yankees
- 9 Aerosmith tour
- 10 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus

Rankings reflect March data and multiple dates for each tour or event.

T H E S I T E S

WEB TOPPERS

The most popular sites among Web surfers.

WHERE'S THE BUZZ?

The most-visited news/info/entertainment sites.

Media Metrix

SITE	UNIQUE VISITORS (IN MILLIONS)	SITE	UNIQUE VISITORS (IN MILLIONS)
1 AOL.com	31.4	1 ZDNet	8.0
2 Yahoo!	31.0	2 MSNBC.com	5.9
3 MSN	21.5	3 MiningCo.com	5.8
4 GO Network	21.1	4 The Weather Channel	5.7
5 GeoCities	20.9	5 Pathfinder	5.4
6 Netscape	19.9	6 ESPN.com	4.8
7 Excite	16.6	7 CNN.com	4.8
8 Microsoft	16.2	8 Disney Online	4.6
9 Lycos	16.1	9 CBS SportsLine	4.5
10 Angelfire	14.1	10 Sony Online	4.0
11 Tripod	13.1	11 Broadcast.com	3.9
12 Hotmail	12.0	12 iVillage	3.8
13 Blue Mountain Arts	11.0	13 Warner Bros. Online	3.8
14 AltaVista	10.4	14 DigitalCity	3.7
15 Amazon.com	9.8	15 CNET	3.5

Media Metrix [www.mediametrix.com] measures the preferences of 40,000 Net surfers. "Visitors" represents the actual number of unique users who visited the site once during the given month. Rankings reflect March data. Apparent ties are the result of rounding.

BOOKS

WWW.AMAZON.COM

The top-selling hardcover fiction titles at Amazon.com.

- 1 *A New Song*, Karon
- 2 *We'll Meet Again*, Higgins Clark
- 3 *East of the Mountains*, Guterson
- 4 *The Girl Who Loved Tom*, Gordon, King
- 5 *The Hours*, Cunningham
- 6 *Soul of the Fire*, Goodkind
- 7 *The Testament*, Grisham
- 8 *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*, Englander
- 9 *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*, ed. Updike
- 10 *Hart's War*, Katzenbach

List represents the week ending 4/28/99.

MUSIC

WWW.CDNOW.COM

The top-selling titles at CDnow.

- 1 *Echo*, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
- 2 *Millennium*, Backstreet Boys
- 3 *The Matrix*, film soundtrack
- 4 *Something for Everybody*, Baz Luhrmann
- 5 *The Slim Shady LP*, Eminem
- 6 *You've Come a Long Way Baby*, Fatboy Slim
- 7 *Believe*, Cher
- 8 *Live in la Vida Loca*, Ricky Martin
- 9 *Americana*, Offspring
- 10 *Bury the Hatchet*, The Cranberries

List represents April sales.

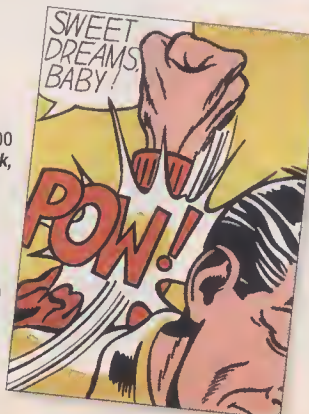
TOP ART AUCTION ITEMS

The paintings and photographs generating the highest bids at Artnet.com

WWW.ARTNET.COM

- 1 *Concetto Spaziale, Attese*, Fontana, \$16B,DDD
- 2 *Red Maternity*, Chagall, \$22,050
- 3 *Sweet Dreams Baby*, Lichtenstein, \$1B,900 ▶
- 4 *Tyler Dining Room*, Hockney, \$12,600
- 5 *Valley View, Yosemite National Park*, Adams, \$11,025
- 6 *Mick Jagger*, Warhol, \$8,250
- 7 *Dancers*, Decarava, \$5,040
- 8 *Hotel D'Argouges et Seguler*, Atget, \$4,725
- 9 *Mirror Image*, Mapplethorpe, \$4,700
- 10 *Sam Abrahams, Driver for 20 Years*, Bourke-White, \$3,675

Rankings reflect April data.



LISTS & STATS

TOP SHAREWARE DOWNLOADS

The most-downloaded software on CNET

WWW.DOWNLOAD.COM

- 1 ICQ (32-bit), lets users chat among disparate service providers
- 2 Winamp, plays MP3, MP2, CD, MOD, and WAV audio files
- 3 WinZip, file compression/decompression software
- 4 Microsoft Internet Explorer, the latest version of the browser
- 5 ICQ (32-bit, without MFC DLLs)
- 6 Paint Shop Pro, image editing and manipulation in several file formats
- 7 NeoPlanet, a 1.7MB browser
- 8 Sonique, an MP3, CD, WAV, and MOD player
- 9 NetZIP Deluxe, file compression/decompression software
- 10 FTP Voyager, download manager

Rankings reflect April downloads.

net poll

NOT ONE FOR ALL

Q: Are you ready to have a single all-in-one card that would function as your ID, bank card, credit card, and access card?

Yes44%
No56%

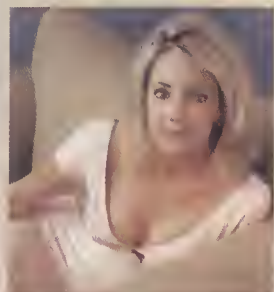
Rankings reflect responses of \$9,6263 voters at CNN.com on April 28, 1999.

THE WEB'S CELEBS

The most-downloaded celebrities currently on the nation's radar.

AOL KEYWORD: EXTRA

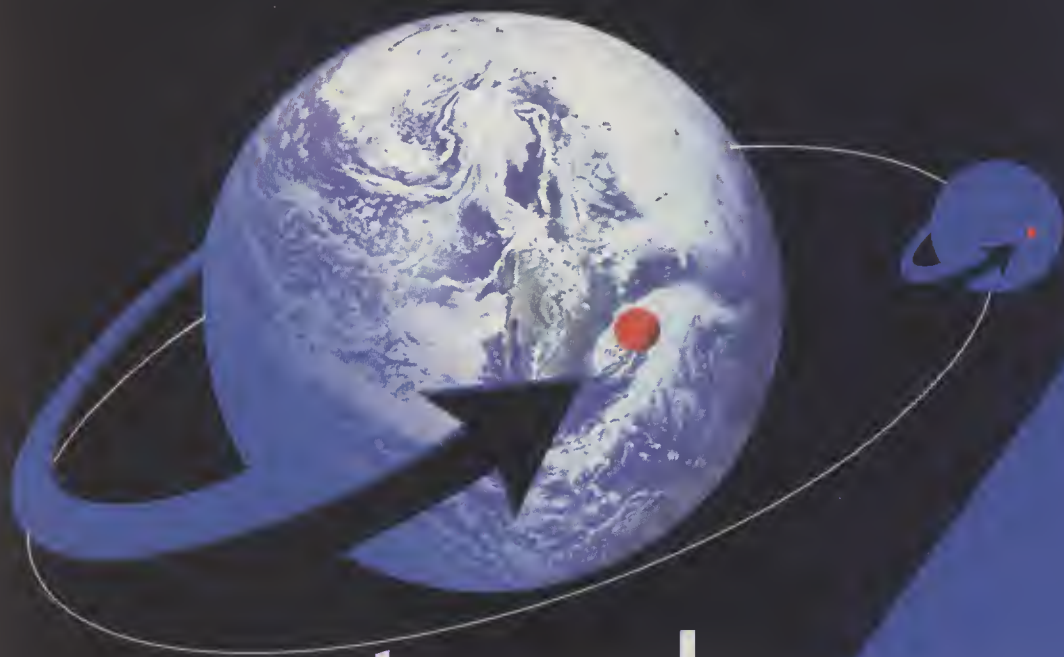
- 1 ▼ Heather Locklear (*Melrose Place*)



GLOBE PHOTOS

- 2 Keanu Reeves (*The Matrix*)
- 3 Drew Barrymore (*Never Been Kissed*)
- 4 Sarah Michelle Gellar (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*)
- 5 Cindy Margolis (*Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*; pinup)
- 6 Scott Wolf (*Go*)
- 7 David Boreanaz (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*)
- 8 Katie Holmes (*Go*)
- 9 Joshua Jackson (*Dawson's Creek*)
- 10 Carrie-Anne Moss (*The Matrix*)

Rankings reflect April downloads from Extra Online.



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YAHOO YENTA

WRITE YENTA AT CLICK@ZD.COM



Dear Yenta,
I'm not talking to my next-door neighbor, and it's all because of the Net. You see, she had an impromptu dinner party and didn't invite me. Well, at least I didn't *think* she invited me. It turns out she had sent the invitation to my AOL account—I haven't logged on there in weeks! Should I be upset? I heard the food was yummy.

—Miffed in Mineola

Dear Miffed,
Oy, how far we've come. Time was, such invitations were yelled over the backyard fence. But then again, women also used to bind their feet and wear corsets. Your otherwise hospitable neighbor's worst offense is a bit of overzealousness in using technology. Unless you all live in one of those newfangled "wired" apartment buildings in New York City, it's probably not smart to use e-mail as your sole means of communication just yet. And you can phone your neighbor and tell her Yenta said that!

search results

GLORY-OUS!

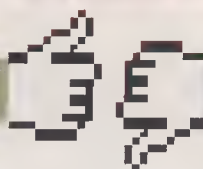
Old Glory 5,506
"Glory, Glory Hallelujah!" 288
Gloria Gaynor 2,748
Gloria Stivic 18



EVERETT COLLECTION

attitude

y i p p e e !



ya-hooley!

VH1'S NOVEL IDEA

True enough, VH1's streaming-music channel, **VH1 ATWORK** [www.vh1.com], may have offended our sensibilities with its first audiocast (*Divas Live '99*). But that transgression aside, it holds one great advantage over its cable namesake: It plays more *music*, and less *Behind the Music*.

WELL DONE, SALON.COM

With its recent purchase of **THE WELL** [www.well.com], Salon.com has made a great Web destination even better. Here's to uniting the Web's smartest zine and one of the Net's most literate public forums.



DIVAS



KEVIN MAZUR/LONDON FEATURES

SEPARATION ANXIETY

Are you a **HOTMAIL** [www.hotmail.com] free e-mail user who wants out? Good luck. Microsoft asks (read: *requires*) you to wait 120 days for your unwanted account to close. Critics feel that Hotmail

makes it too hard to say good-bye, whereas Hotmail says dissidents can just create (and distribute) a new e-mail address and be gone.

SPAM (AKA "IM")

Junk missives aren't just for e-mailboxes anymore. Twenty-eight million ICQ instant-messaging users are now vulnerable to unsolicited messages

from strangers hawking porn sites and get-rich-quick schemes. So much for this once-safe haven.

HOOK US UP!

DIRECTWEB [www.directweb.com] and **GObi** [www.gobi.com] are among a new crop of Net service providers offering surfers free PCs. The catch? You either agree to a multiyear service term, or plunk down a nominal security deposit. True, you don't get the most high-powered system, but there's also no large cash outlay. There goes your cheap friends' last excuse for not logging on.

THE BLAME GAME

A recent lawsuit, filed by the parents of three students killed in a Kentucky shooting spree, places blame for the murders on two Web porn sites, among other media offenders. (After all, this shooter *was* a computer buff.) Apparently, "personal responsibility" has taken on new meaning in this digital age.

SITE GAG

BY MICK STEVENS



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[SAFETY.NET.]

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EZ user

Simple Answers for Smart People HOW TO GET THE MOST NET IN THE LEAST TIME



If search services provided some kind of "freshness dating," users would not have to sort through stale links.

SEARCH ALERT by Danny Sullivan

Super Freshness Dating

Unlike certain spongy, cream-filled snack cakes, many Web links possess short shelf lives. Some sites grow stale from lack of care. Others just expire. In an ideal world, search services would be able to eliminate dead links from their enormous databases. Alas, this is not the case.

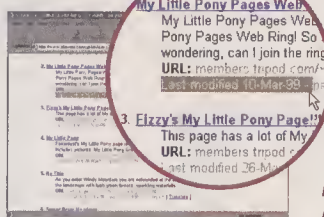
In fact, the onus is on the user to sort the good links from the link litter. That's why I think search services should offer a "freshness date" for search results. By "freshness date," I mean that search services should return results that show the actual day, month, and year that the engine's Web crawler

last visited a site and verified it as a live link.

Currently, no search service offers this kind of dating. But such search engines as Infoseek [www.infoseek.com] and AltaVista [www.altavista.com] do provide date info in their search results that shows when

an owner last modified his or her site. This material can be extremely helpful, especially for researchers seeking time-sensitive data online.

Danny Sullivan runs the respected *Search Engine Watch* [www.searchenginewatch.com].



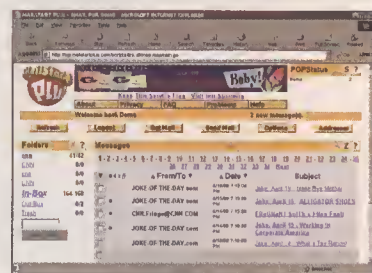
AltaVista's search results reveal when a page was last modified.

DEAR SURF GURU

Accessing E-mail from the Road; Transferring Bookmarks

What's the simplest way to access e-mail from the road?

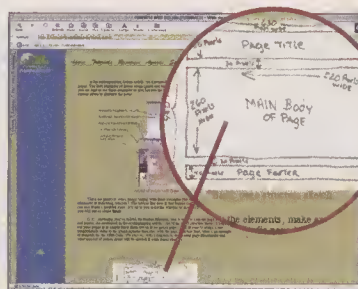
Unless you use a Web-based e-mail service, checking for messages from the road can be a hassle; it usually requires that you reconfigure somebody else's e-mail client software or that you obtain local access numbers from your service provider (to avoid incurring long-distance charges). Well, it doesn't have to be such a headache. Thanks to a free service called MailStart Plus [www.mailstartplus.com], you can manage and consolidate up to five POP3 e-mail accounts via the Web. The service also permits you to send messages (from any of your accounts), delete e-mail, and set up mail filters.



How can I transfer bookmarks saved on my work PC to my home PC?

A service called Clickmarks.com [www.clickmarks.com] lets you upload, save, and manage all of your favorite links online. It's the easiest way I've found for transferring bookmarks from one computer to another. To get started, go to the Clickmarks.com site and register for a free account. Follow the on-screen instructions for uploading your existing bookmarks or favorites to the service. The next time you want to access your bookmarks (from home or elsewhere), simply log on to the site; the links will show up in your browser window.

Is there a site that offers design tips for expert Webmasters?



Take a look at the Ziff-Davis tip site, Devhead [www.devhead.com], as well as Fortress Web Design [www.fortressdesign.com], where you'll discover pearls of Perl wisdom, JavaScript tutorials, and the latest scoop on HTML 4.0.

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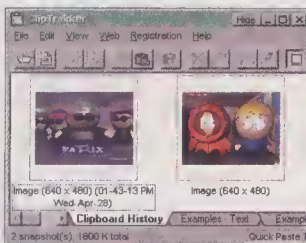
NEAT NET TRICKS by Jack Teems

Patch Watch

Now and then, it's a good idea to check in with Netscape's or Microsoft's browser update sites to see if they have made available new patches for downloading. These patches can help exterminate annoying browser bugs. In either Navigator 4.x or Internet Explorer 4.x, click the "Help" menu. Choose "Software Updates," or "Product Updates," respectively.

Copy Catchers

The clipboard is one of the most inadequate features of Windows: It can hold only a single piece of data at any given time. I absolutely hate it. When I surf, I like copying the random stuff I find online (such as links, text, and pictures) to a clipboard for later viewing. That's why I recently downloaded a shareware product called **ClipTrakker 1.1** [www.cliptrakker.com]. This powerful alternative to the Windows clipboard maintains a graphical thumbnail history of everything I copy to it. I'm also fond of **ClipMagic 2.0** [www.clipmagic.com] and **Clip-Cache 2.19** [www.xrayz.demon].



Save multiple documents, images, and links to ClipTrakker's clipboard.

co.uk], two other superior clipboard enhancers.

Quick Queries

The next time you want to conduct a quick Web search, use your browser's built-in search feature. Just type *search* in your browser's Location (Navigator 4.x) or Address (Internet Explorer 4.x) field, followed by a search term. Hit Return.

Extreme Measures

How many light-years are there in a parsec? How many drops make up a gill? How many oxybaphons equal one caphtite? At **MegaConverter** [www.megaconverter.com], an interactive calculator of sorts, you can convert just about anything into anything else. You'll need to be running Navigator 3.x or later or Internet Explorer 3.x or later to use the service. You must also enable your browser's frames and JavaScript settings to view the site's conversion tools.

Jack Teems is keeper of the **Neat Net Tricks Web site** [www.neatnettricks.com].



The MegaConverter, an interactive calculator of sorts, lets you convert just about anything into anything else.

NET REFRESHER

Maximize the Browser Window

Viewing the Net through a wee 15-inch monitor? Increase your Web browser viewing area by hiding the navigation toolbars.

Netscape Navigator 4.x Click the "View" menu and select "Hide Navigation Toolbar" (Navigator 4.5x users must first select "Show"). For extra room, select "Hide Location Toolbar" and "Hide Personal Toolbar." To recover the toolbars, click the "View" menu and select "Show Navigation Toolbar," "Show Location Toolbar," and "Show Personal Toolbar."

Navigator 3.x Click the "Options" menu and uncheck "Show Toolbar." If you're still feeling cramped, also uncheck "Show Location" and "Show Directory Buttons." To recover the toolbars, recheck these menu options.

Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.x Click the Fullscreen button. Click it again to return the window to its default size.

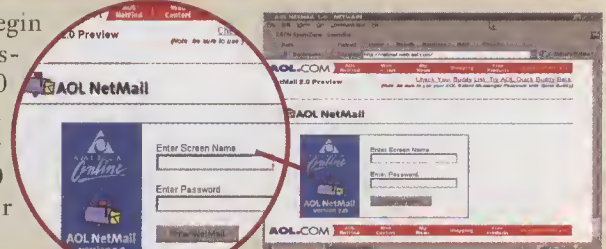
Internet Explorer 3.x Click the "View" menu and uncheck "Toolbar" and "Status Bar." To recover the toolbars, recheck these menu options.

SECRETS OF AMERICA ONLINE

You've Got Mail... on the Web!

Thanks to AOL NetMail 2.0, you can send and receive e-mail messages from the Web. And you don't need AOL software! Head to [netmail.web.aol.com] and type your AOL screen name and password in the provided fields. Click

"Enter NetMail" to begin retrieving your messages. NetMail 2.0 works on Mac and PC platforms running Internet Explorer 3.0 or later or Navigator 3.02 or later.



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Question: Where can you buy a roll of Scotch  Tape, a 500MHz IBM business computer, an Olympus (or HP, or Canon, or Epson, or Casio, or Kodak, or Fujifilm, or Toshiba)  digital camera, an Amana freezer, a Global  leather executive chair, a Seiko Watch, *and* a set of Ram golf clubs? Where can you **p**urchase a **p**aper shredder, **p**et supplies, a **p**ersonal  digital assistant, **p**ain relievers, **p**lumbing **p**roducts,  *and* a **p**ortable DVD **p**layer? Where can you choose from thirty thousand products for your business, from three hundred quality  business and technology brands, *or* choose from *hundreds* of thousands of *non*-business products, from a thousand *other* quality brands? Where can you shop  for the things you need  (*and* the stuff you merely *want*) without leaving home? Where in the world can you go shopping at 3:00AM on Christmas morning in your robe and bunny  slippers? Who has the best selection, from the best brands,  at the best prices? I think you can guess the **Answer:**

www.ValueAmerica.com



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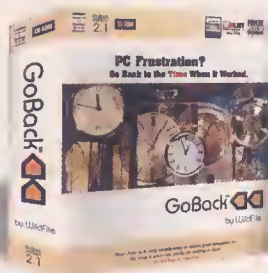
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Know who's calling you with this digital caller-ID box. Free to try; \$14.95 to buy.

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List-Managers Mailing List

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Go "back in time" with GoBack software and undo PC blunders.

Newsgroup

alt.cellular

Chitchat about phones, beepers, and assorted Web gizmos.

Internet Explorer, Part V

Why you want Microsoft's newest browser

Recently, Microsoft introduced **Internet Explorer 5.0** [www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/], and along with it a host of browser improvements to enhance the surfing experience. We've had some time to test it, poke around inside it, and outright abuse it. Our conclusion: It's definitely worth downloading. Here are the features we found most impressive.

1 START ME UP!

Not only is the new browser simpler to install, it's much easier to upgrade, too. Internet Explorer 5.0 users have the choice of downloading the full installation (29.4MB), a "typical" install (17.2MB), or a "minimal" install (7.5MB). The last option is great for surfers who don't want all of the browser's multimedia bells and whistles. Internet Explorer 5.0 also gives surfers a way to add components to the browser automatically at a later date (click the "Tools" menu and select "Windows Update").

2 THE NAVIGATION BAR

Users can customize the toolbar by right-clicking on it. One useful customization option lets you add or remove buttons (such as the Full Screen feature) to and from the toolbar.

3 SEARCH SAVVY

Internet Explorer 5.0's search features have been completely overhauled. Now the browser makes it possible for users to run queries on Web addresses, e-mail addresses, company home pages, and maps of U.S. cities.

One particular feature, called AutoSearch

(which was introduced in 4.0), has been improved as well. Surfers can type a keyword into the "Address" field, and the browser will automatically run a query on the term and load the results in a partitioned search frame.

Also, after surfers load a page, Internet Explorer 5.0 lets them run a "Related Links" search (click the "Tools" menu and select "Show Related Links").

You can use the feature to track down other sites on the Web whose content is similar to that of the page currently in the browser window.

4 PLAYING FAVORITES

Internet Explorer 5.0 users can export and import favorites/bookmarks to and from Navigator (click the "File" menu and select "Import and Export..."). Also, users can schedule Web site downloads for off-line viewing.

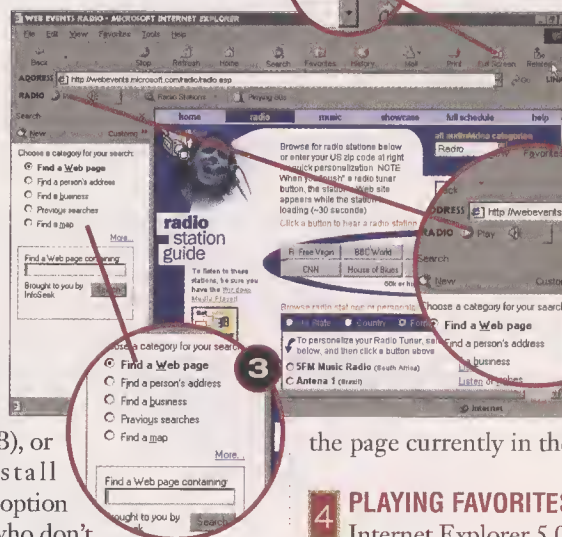
5 RADIO ACTIVATED

The browser's radio toolbar is impressive. It connects users to a radio station site guide on the MSN network. From there, surfers can link to stations that are streaming music over the Net. At press time, the radio toolbar could not read G2 RealAudio files.

6 HISTORY DOESN'T REPEAT ITSELF

Now you can sort the "History" file by "Date," "Site," "Most Visited," and "Order Visited Today." Users can also search the entire "History" file for a particular word or phrase.

—Franco Ruggeri





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www.brownandwilliamson.com

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shopper

SMART BUYS FOR BUSY PEOPLE

PICKS OF THE MONTH BY KAREN L. MILLER



The Maine Course

1 Your mother used to bring sandwiches on picnics. But for a more intimate twosome, Constitution's New England clam-bake for two gives you a pair of alive-and-kicking, 1- to 1½-pound lobsters, steamer clams or mussels, clam chowder, and all needed accoutrements (\$99, overnight delivery).

Constitution Lobsters & Clambakes

www.lobsterclambake.com

Do Martha Stewart Proud

2 Classic white kitchen appliances are fine, but chrome finishes with a splash of Fiesta-like color exude more than a little panache. The Pastel Toaster (\$54.95) features extra-wide slots for bagels and pastries, a defrost feature, and classic chrome construction—plus either blue, green, or yellow side panels to match your color scheme. Frosted Pop-Tarts not included.

Kitchen & Home Buyer's Club
www.kitchenandhome.com



Mad for Hats

3 Whether you're aiming to make a cool summer statement or just want to look chic while blocking the sun's rays, a Panama straw hat has it covered. The Village Hat Shop offers dozens of styles, including this women's Classic 6 (\$123).

The Village Hat Shop

www.villagehatshop.com



Backstage Pass

4 As official photographer for both the Monterey Pop Festival and Woodstock, Henry Diltz was a guy with serious access. You'll feel like a lucky voyeur browsing his online gallery of behind-the-scenes, up-close-and-very-personal views of such '60s icons as Jimi Hendrix, Mama Cass Elliott, and Janis Joplin. Order a simple 8-by-10 print (\$39) or a Diltz-signed 11-by-14 (\$300).

Henry's Gallery

www.henrysgallery.com

SHOPPER'S LITTLE HELPER

If a Web merchant has shrugged off your gripe about its services, despair not. The **Better Business Bureau** [www.bbb.org] negotiates with companies that run misleading advertising, fail to deliver goods, don't honor guarantees, or make billing errors. Complete the BBB's online form and, if there's a case, the organization will take action on your behalf. Though this process may be slow, rest assured: Your complaint will get attention. In the meantime, bask in the instant gratification of complaining to "the authorities."

FOUND AT AUCTION

Did *The Mary Tyler Moore Show's* Murray Slaughter ever receive a coveted "Teddy" award? No, but one lucky **eBay** [www.ebay.com] bidder recently won (for \$41) "Murray Can't Lose," a cast-autographed 1977 *Mary Tyler Moore Show* script. In this episode, Murray thinks he'll get—but once again loses—the long-awaited honor.

I CAN BUY WHAT ON THE NET?

As you celebrate the 30th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon (July 20), you can also be acquiring some lunar real estate: A 10-"serca" deed (about 1,778 acres) of prime lunar property here is only \$15.99. Buy now, colonize later.

MoonShop

www.moonshop.com



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IPHONE

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PHOTOS BY CHRIS ROGERS

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3552



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The Net as Goddess

COULD IT BE THAT THE ENTIRE WEB IS FROM VENUS, TOO?

Three friends have me on their dirty-joke distribution lists. All three are women. Yet when I find myself in a group where dirty jokes are embraced, it's usually the men who tell them. Few women join in the rotation. Is there something about the Internet that encourages women to liberate their latent desire to pass around dirty jokes? Is there something about the Internet that liberates women, period?

Conventional wisdom holds that tech is a male world—



that most users of computers and the Net are men. Conventional wisdom is outdated. The stats are clear. Right now, about 45 percent of all Internet users are women, and a Vanderbilt University Project 2000 study concludes that women "will reach parity shortly."

The figure of 45—pushing-50 is even more revealing if you realize that a majority of people who use the Net in their work are probably male, if only because cyberheavy occupations are still dominated by men. This suggests that more than 50 percent of *voluntary* Net

users may already be female! When I joined CompuServe in the early '80s, most log-on names were male. Now there is no sense at all that women are underrepresented online.

I'd noticed this in a vague way without making anything of it, until I encountered Dr. Leonard Shlain in April at the Conference on World Affairs, held at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Shlain has written a book titled *The Alphabet Versus the Goddess: The Conflict Between Word and Image* (Viking, 1998). He believes the rise of the printed word was bad for women, because literacy favors left-brain-oriented males. Before print, he claims, females were dominant, because their right-brain orientation was suited to community and family-centered societies. The invention of the alphabet, in short, interrupted a happy pastoral era and set the hounds of testosterone loose upon us.

I have no idea if he's right. What's fascinating is the conclusion he draws for today. The Web, he believes, is tilting the balance back toward women. Web surfing is a right-brain activity, more closely tied to reverie than to linear reading. It's based on connections, many of them intuitive, and women are better at connecting, at gathering together, at functioning in communities.


While the introduction of writing led to the rise of a patriarchal culture, the Web is a matriarchy waiting to happen.

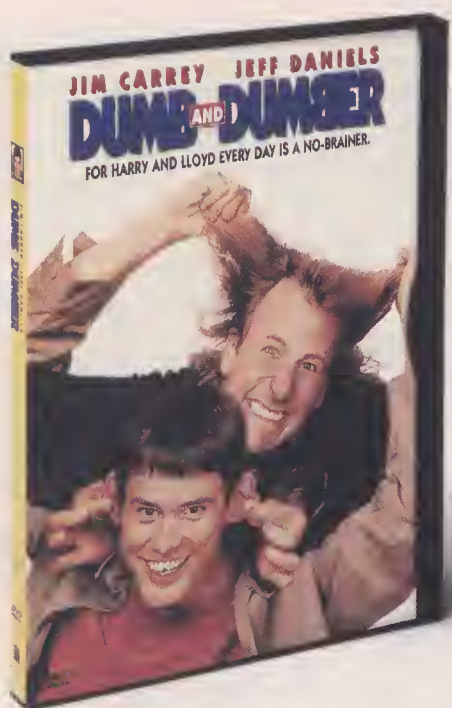
Can this be so? There's anecdotal evidence to support it. Until a few years ago, many women happily said they were "computer illiterates." They saw computers as a guy thing—until they sat down at one and felt oddly comfortable. Women love e-mail as a way to stay in touch with far-flung family members. Older women are going online in sur-

prising numbers; **SeniorNet** (www.seniornet.org) is a matriarchy. Women are shopping more online, and those who tend to clip coupons are leaping joyously upon online price-comparison search engines. Female academics, who sometimes feel isolated or marginalized in male-dominated departments, form communities on the Web. And in discussion groups and forums, women, who are better attuned to tone and nuance, get into far fewer flame wars, because they aren't as insensitive as men to how others can misread their words.

But forget about women just doing stereotypical female things online. The Web also gives them more freedom to do stereotypical male things.

In conversation and in professional meetings, men tend to talk longer and louder; women ask more questions and listen attentively to the answers. But in cyberspace, no one can hear you interrupt. Women get to say what they want to say without some guy completing their sentences for them. Camille Paglia has never been easy to interrupt, true; but pre-Web, she had a smaller, more fringe readership. Now her columns for **Salon** (www.salon.com) have made her one of the most popular writers on the Web, male or female. She writes the same way, but online she gets our full attention. On the Web, where physical presence and gender stereotyping are less important, the opinions of females compete on a level playing field.

Can it be that men tend to travel the Web as loners, whereas women seek company? Is the Web by its nature a better fit for the way women's minds work? Maybe. I was going to hunt and gather supporting statistics, but my hunches and instincts are simply telling me it's true. Call it a man's intuition. 



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Naked Thievery

PILFERED PASSWORDS TO ADULT SITES ARE HOT - TOO HOT

"Dear Safety Net," the letter began, "I caught my sons, 14 and 16, sneaking into adult sites without my permission—not that I would exactly be giving it anyway. That's bad enough, but these were pay-per-use sites, and supposedly require a password. But my kids both tell me that's a joke, that they can get into any of them anytime they please. How is this possible? What can I do, besides enrolling them in military school?"

Remember the game show *Password?* Teams of contestants vied to see who could suss out the secret word first. That word might be *cannibal*, or maybe *burlesque*. The winners received a prize for their inspired guesswork.

Well, there's another kind of password game being played on the Net today. And the people running it have taken the guesswork out and added prizes that are bawdier than burlesque ever was.

Among the thousands of adult sites on the Net, many now require a paid subscription. Once you subscribe, you receive a log-on name and a password, which enable you to enjoy the, uh, scenery. Sites that don't charge may require an age verification, such as that provided (for a fee) by **The Adult Check System** [www.adultcheck.com]. Before you can click into an Adult Check-blocked site, for example, you have to fill out a form at Adult Check with your name, age, physical and e-mail addresses, and credit card info. If you're approved, Adult Check issues you an identification number—a password, essentially—which you can flash at any of the almost 40,000 sites currently using the system.

But digital pickpockets are making passwords to hundreds of adult sites available to anyone with a modem—including, potentially, the junior mem-

bers of your household. How? Many of those distributing this information have filched the passwords using stolen or faked credit card numbers; others have hacked into the adult sites themselves.

"We had up to 2,000 people sneaking into Cybererotica with stolen passwords," says Ron Levi, president of Voice Media Inc., which runs that popular adult destination. Danni's Hard Drive, another high-profile erotic site, had an equally tough time, says Emily Warren, director of technical operations. "One password alone was coming in from 7,000 different computers," recalls Warren, who developed a custom fix for the problem.

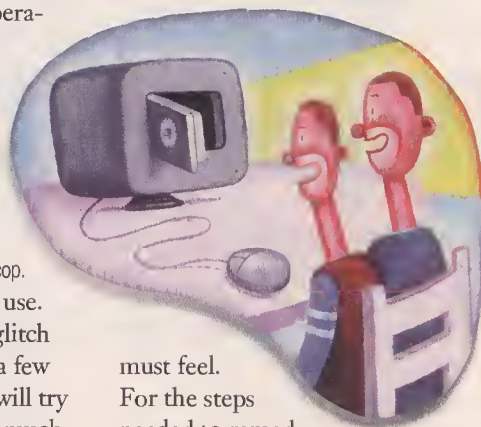
Levi, too, worked up his own prophylactic software, in the form of **Password Cop** [www.passwordcop.com], which nearly 500 sites now use. Still, he notes, "if there's ever a glitch where the shield goes down for a few minutes, 2,000, 3,000 [hackers] will try to get in." Levi estimates that as much as 20 percent of the traffic at adult sites may involve stolen passwords.

How easy is it to find these passwords? As easy as logging on. A search for the word *passwords* among the newsgroups indexed by **Deja News** [www.dejanews.com], a portal site and watering hole of sorts for Usenet participants, turned up about 250,000 postings. All I had to do was pick and choose the ones that seemed promising—an easy task in this case, given that the groups bear such names as [alt.sex.passwords] and [alt.sex.commercial-sites.password-exchange]. I also ran a search for *free passwords* at a popular search engine, hauling in a catch of several other sites.

Eight instantly gratified minutes later, I found four Web sites that were donat-

ing log-on names and passwords like CARE packages to the needy. I tried 10 different passwords from four sites. Of those, six worked without a hitch. Others were outdated or, I suspect, useless on purpose, meant solely to entice you into the owner's own porn site.

Levi and Warren, at least, should feel buoyed by the news that my attempts to steal into *their* sites failed miserably. Miserable too, though, is how the anxious parents of Web-surfing children



must feel.

For the steps needed to remedy the availability problem, though clear, are not always attractive.

- Limit the hours during which your children are allowed to be online.
- Put the computer in a place where you can see what the kids are doing.
- Use such software filters as **Net Nanny** [www.netnanny.com] and **Cyber Patrol** [www.cyberpatrol.com] to prevent them from going to adult and/or password sites.

Filters, of course, are imperfect and sometimes arbitrary, and may reflect a political agenda you don't share. What's more, your kids may know how to disable them anyway. That being the case, remember that tiptoeing into adult sites eventually becomes as boring as brushing your teeth. Sooner or later, the novelty is bound to wear off.

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Wedding Bells for the Net and TV?

PLUS: FRUSTRATED SHOPPERS, WOULD-BE MUSIC STARS

1] I WANT MY NTV

THE PROMISE: A Redmond, Washington, company will drive the marriage of the Internet and television.

THE REALITY: It's not the Redmond company you think.

After years of false starts, the long-awaited marriage of TV and the Net is about to take off. Internet-enabled television sets, or "NetTVs," will be the surprise hit of the 1999 Christmas season, just as e-commerce was the surprise of 1998.

Maybe you knew that. Maybe you've watched the slow progress of Microsoft's WebTV. What you might not know is that the most significant change may ultimately be spearheaded by a company from Redmond—but not the one that Bill Gates runs.

Stellar One produces a set-top box called the Netris 3000. Though at first glance it resembles other set-top boxes, a closer look reveals its superiority: The Netris 3000 lets you surf the Net with your TV (like WebTV). It lets you view video-on-demand (like a better version of today's hotel-room systems). It lets you access your e-mail (like a Net-equipped PC). And more.

Lots can still go awry. But if I had to pick the company most likely to unite the Net and TV, I wouldn't pick @Home, or WebTV, or Motorola. I'd pick Stellar One and its killer box.



2] SNUBBING SHOPPERS ONLINE

THE PROMISE: Online, great customers get great service.

THE REALITY: Everybody else may get treated like dirt.

We Americans all have a shadowy secret that follows us around. It may be out of date and inaccurate. Yet it often determines what we can and can't do. It's called a credit report.

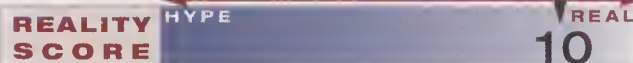
If you think *that's* bad, wait until you run into your "click report." More and more Web firms are sharing info about visitors, which allows shopping sites to create sophisticated profiles. And they use these profiles to cull the herd, based on what they know about your buying habits, surfing patterns, etc.

If they decide you're not "good enough," they may snub you.



Consider the policy of brokerage firm Charles Schwab: On heavy trading days, its best customers trade first; others wait. Or ponder the recent *BusinessWeek* report suggesting that those who don't make the grade may find themselves excluded from special offers and even dropped as customers.

This issue is part of a larger privacy debate over the personal data that e-businesses capture about you—and what they do with it once they get it. A lousy credit report is bad enough. But online, a lousy click report can really cramp your Web lifestyle.



3] CAN THE WEB MAKE YOU A MUSIC STAR?

THE PROMISE: The Web can launch your music career.

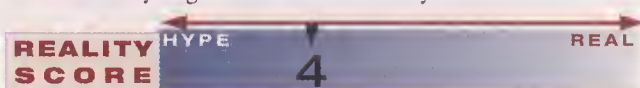
THE REALITY: Only if you already have a music career.

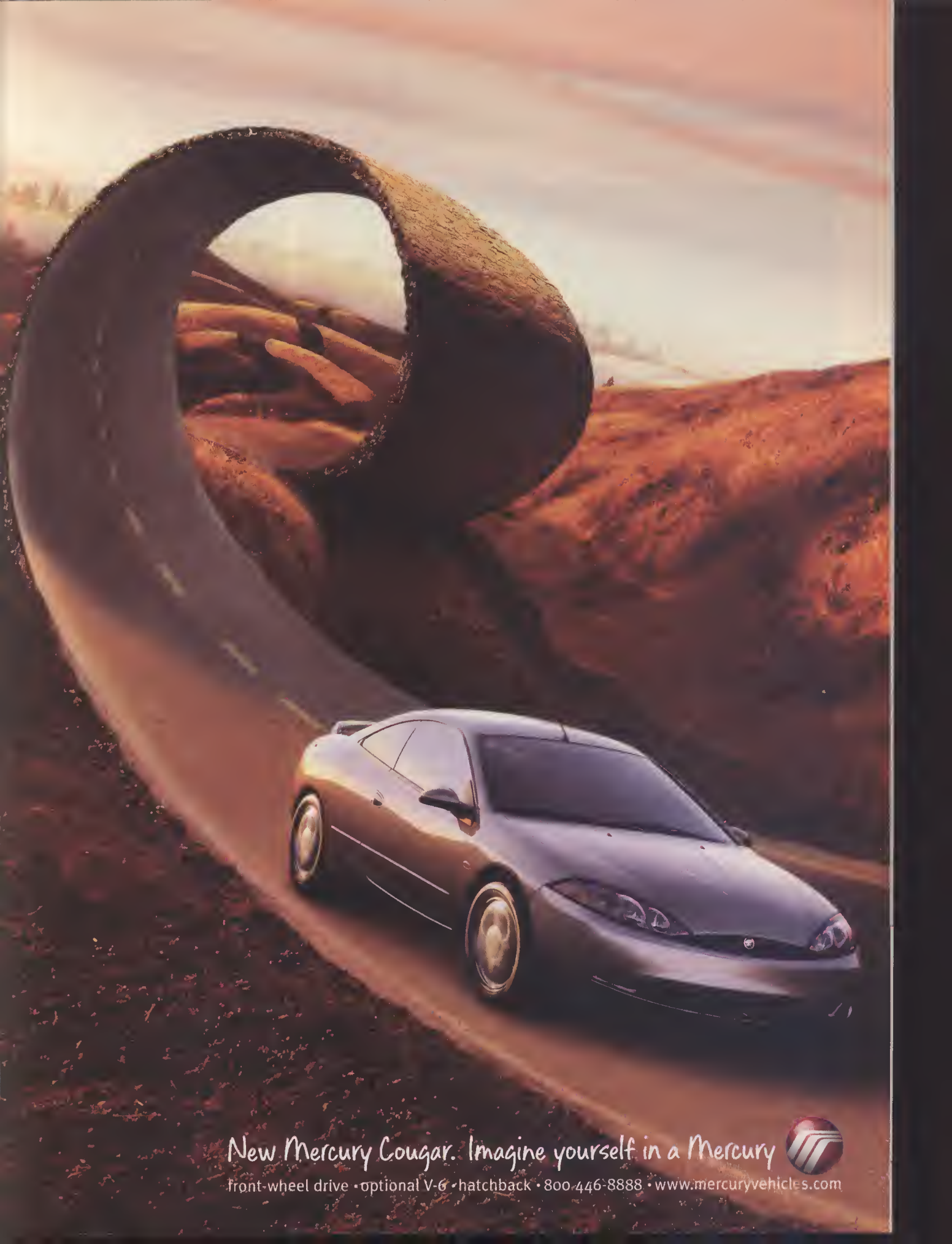
Net tunes are the rage among hip music aficionados. And most of the action revolves around the sexy and controversial MP3 file format. Although major recording labels decry MP3 as a bootlegger's dream, MP3 has become the most widely searched-for term on the Web, according to *Searchterms.com* [www.searchterms.com]—even more popular than *sex*.

Now the mania is leading some to believe that unknown bands can become famous on their own. Witness sites like *Garage-bands.com* [www.garage-bands.com] and *Garage Band Network* [www.garageband.net], both of which aim to promote new groups.

Remove the rose-colored glasses and you'll see that Net music is largely limited to the most tech-savvy fans: those with late-model computers, fast Net connections, and high-end sound cards. Online music also remains bogged down by format problems, copyright issues, and the difficulty of plucking the few diamonds from all the rubble.

Musical fame on the Net? Sure. All it takes is a tune. And talent. And a way to get the world to notice you amid all the noise.





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TOUCHED BY THE NET

BY MATT RICHTEL



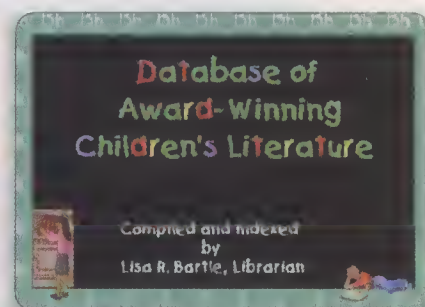
A Web Page-Turner

A CALIFORNIA LIBRARIAN, HER WATCHFUL EYE ON CHILDREN, BRINGS CULTURE—FROM A PANOPLY OF CULTURES—TO THE WEB

DATABASE OF AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE www2.wcoil.com/~ellerbee/childlit.html

Here's a personal ad with a twist: African-American girl, age 7, with a passion for fantasy, poetry, and the Revolutionary War, seeks literature that will speak to her. Lousy reads need not apply.

For most of us, it's not very hard to find a captivating book, what with Tom Wolfe, John Le Carré, and Barbara Kingsolver filling up the bookshelves. But try walking in the shoes of a 6-year-old Native American boy who wants to learn about his culture. Or in those of the parents of preteens who have already blown through every book in the library—and have suddenly developed a single-minded interest in prehistoric times.



Lisa R. Bartle, a professional librarian, can lend a helping hand: She's the creator and curator of the **DATABASE OF AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**.

The site, a catalog of more than 2,500 children's books that have received major literary awards, is not just a list of best-sellers for boys and girls. Its search engine permits visitors to sort the books by unusual attributes: the gender and ethnicity of the main character, the book's genre, or the culture and historical period about which it was written (from prehistory through the present). Visitors can also sort the books by the age of the intended reader. The result: Kids can find a story created in their image.

"All the research shows that children want to identify with the protagonist," says Bartle, who also works part-time in the California State University at San Bernardino's Pfau Library. More generally, she adds, her site can help pint-size readers pursue individual interests in seemingly obscure topics. "Choose a historical time period—18th century, Revolutionary War. It can help spur that interest," she says, talking about children's literature the way John Madden might talk about a great brain-shaking tackle.

The woman knows a little something about searching for the perfect piece of literature. Three years ago, while a graduate student at UCLA's School of Library and Information Science, she was assigned to find children's books on certain subjects. It became a bigger challenge than she expected, which prompted an epiphany: If the task was tough for a librarian, she thought, it must be daunting for parents and young readers.

In the interim, she has read some 970 of the books listed on the site, all of which have received or been finalists for one or

more of 17 major book accolades, such as the Newbery Award and the Caldecott Award. Her desk, which sits in her Southern California home office, is forever weighed down by dozens of kids' books just waiting to be added to the site.

Bartle, however, isn't the only one illuminating the world of kiddie lit online. Of the dozens of sites on the topic (in fact, there's an entire Web ring encircling the subject), arguably the most widely visited is **THE CHILDREN'S LITERATURE WEB GUIDE** [www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown]. David K. Brown, a librarian at the University of Calgary, created the site, which lists award winners, recommended books, and resources for parents, teachers, and aspiring authors.

His site, however, also comes with a caveat—one that even Bartle could not disagree with: The information, it says, is only as good as the librarian who organized it. "The Net is a tremendous resource," writes Brown. "But it will never compete with a children's librarian with a purposeful gleam in the eye."

SMALL TOUCHES



ETUIART WEST/MORLAND/TONY STONE

GOING ON AN EXPEDITION (WITHOUT THE MESS)

www.jasonproject.org

After Dr. Robert Ballard discovered the sunken ruins of the *Titanic* off the coast of Newfoundland in 1985, thousands of students asked if they could join the next expedition. Finally, the explorer/scientist has decided to let them—virtually speaking. Ballard founded **THE JASON PROJECT** (named after the leader of the Argonauts). It uses expensive audio, video, and satellite equipment to Netcast his explorations in real time. The site encourages students to perform experiments in the classroom, but the more interesting facts might be found in the mak-

ing of the site: In a recent journey to Peru's Amazon River basin, Ballard and a team of 90 scientists and students brought with them 30 tons of telecommunications equipment just for the Netcast. A titanic effort, indeed.



FRED STERN

MAKING THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

www.zianet.com/rainbow

Dorothy wandered somewhere over one. Jesse Jackson heads a coalition named after one. But Fred Stern, who calls himself an environmental artist, actually *makes* rainbows, and in doing so, he makes people very happy. Stern travels the country, lighting up the sky at various events and summer camps with man-made rainbows, which he fashions by spraying water into the air to refract sunlight. His goal is both aesthetic and political. "I see the rainbow as the planet's true flag," says Stern, who started his activism protesting the Vietnam War. **RAINBOW MAKER'S WORLD** promotes peace, provides a schedule of his upcoming appearances, and shares the secrets of how to make your own colorful stairway to heaven. "It sure makes watering [the lawn] a lot more fun," he writes.

GIVING THE PEACE CORPS A CHANCE

www.peacecorps.gov/kids

Hey kids, forget about your bedtime and head off to Africa, South America, and the Middle East—online, anyway—to learn about other cultures. **PEACE CORPS KIDS WORLD** includes games, folktales, and geography lessons, accompanied by illustrations of Traveler the dog. Designed to educate students about other lands, the site also hopes to inspire a future generation of volunteers to leave the virtual world behind for—yikes!—the real one.

MENDING BROKEN HEARTS

www.gloriasplaceofhope.org


To hundreds of children with serious congenital heart defects or disease, *hope* is a housewife named Gloria J. Weichand. **GLORIA'S PLACE OF HOPE INC.**, her Web site and charity, lets affected young ones know that care is available, and then (for a lucky few) arranges the medical help necessary to prolong their lives. So far, Weichand has helped four families from China, and three from Ecuador, fly to New York for operations that can cost as much as \$100,000. She has kicked in her own money in some cases, and in others has persuaded a local hospital to treat the children for a greatly reduced fee. What inspires her kindness? Weichand's own 22-year-old son has a heart condition and nearly didn't make it past the crib himself. "I know we can't save all of them," says the woman some have called the Angel of the Internet. "But if we can give the parents a little hope, it'll help the passing, because they'll know at least they tried everything."



BEN OSBORNE/TONY STONE

CRYING OVER SPILLED OIL

www.exxonvaldez.org

It has been 10 years since the *Exxon Valdez* spewed viscous oil into Prince William Sound in Alaska. But one group, calling itself (and its site) **SURVIVORS OF THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL**, says the tanked tanker still hampers the lives of 40,000 fishermen and workers in related industries. In short, they want their money: Exxon was ordered to pay the victims a total of \$5.3 billion in punitive damages, but the company appealed in 1994. The matter has been stuck in the courts since. "The economic boom of the '90s passed [us] right by," says Steven Goldstein, press secretary for the group. His site asks visitors to write their members of Congress for support. Meanwhile, Exxon's own site [www.exxon.com] says, "The oil spill was a tragic accident, which we deeply regret." 

BY DAVID SHEFF

Net Trading Skeptic

AN EXTENDED CHAT WITH FINANCIAL-NEWS POWERHOUSE
MICHAEL BLOOMBERG ABOUT NET TRADERS, NOT GETTING
RICH QUICK, AND THE DUBIOUS MERITS OF ONLINE PRIVACY



STEVE HALIN

BLOOMBERG.COM www.bloomberg.com

One morning last April, investors scanning Yahoo! Finance's message boards noticed a posting headlined "BUYOUT NEWS." The message announced that a company called PairGain Technologies Inc., a California-based telecommunications company, had agreed to be acquired by Israel's ECI Telecom in a deal valued at \$1.35 billion. The message read, "Just found it on Bloomberg," and included a link to what appeared to be a news article on **Bloomberg.com** [www.bloomberg.com].

Within minutes, PairGain's stock shot up 31 percent.

The problem was that the article was bogus. By late morning, the real Bloomberg

News released a story saying that it had run no article about PairGain on its newswire, and investors began to realize that the post on the Yahoo! board was a hoax. They bailed out of PairGain, and the stock plummeted.

If nothing else, the hoax showed two things: the power of the Net and the power of Bloomberg, one of the premier providers of financial news.

The Bloomberg empire is the brainchild of Mike Bloomberg, 56, the financial-information czar whose companies provide data and analysis pertaining to markets around the world. The company's cash cow is its widely used news and information service, which is piped directly to both PCs and custom-made, double-screen terminals in subscribers' offices via a proprietary network—a sort of private Internet. The service costs \$1,200 a month on average and includes a 24-hour news and sport service, as well as a steady stream of live broadcasts and tickers with stock indexes, bond yields, business headlines, exchange rates, and the like. As Nigel Farndale wrote in the *National Post*, "So ubiquitous has Bloomberg's...system become that investment bankers and stockbrokers around the world no longer 'message' each other with gossip: they 'Bloomberg.'"

Described in the same article as "so ebullient he makes Richard Branson of Virgin seem restrained," Bloomberg earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and then was turned down for military service in Vietnam because of flat feet. He joined Salomon Brothers in 1966 and worked his way up in the investment bank until 1981, when it was acquired. Bloomberg was let go with a \$10 million payoff; he used the money to found his own business. *Forbes* magazine estimates that his personal worth now stands at \$2 billion. And Bloomberg is not particularly modest about it, at least according to *The Washington Post*. When Sharon Stone was still single a few years ago, Bloomberg reportedly made a play for the sexy actress. When he was unsuccessful in reaching her, he

asked, "How many single, heterosexual billionaires are out there?"

Yet he is also known for his charitable donations and generosity. When *Time* magazine included him as one of the country's top 50 cyberelite, it noted his program that allows free 60-day in-home access to Bloomberg info via the Internet for any customer who becomes unemployed or who requires a leave of absence to take care of a family or medical emergency.

We caught up with Bloomberg in his New York office—one of 47 in cities around the globe—soon after the Pair-Gain scandal (an employee of that company was arrested) and on a day that the stock market set a new record past the Dow 10,300 mark. We asked him about his take on the market, particularly as it relates to Internet companies, and on other Net-related financial issues.

Y-LIFE: What do you make of the market now that, at press time, we're well past 10,000? Are you optimistic or cautious?

BLOOMBERG: I continue to note that most

of this financial engineering. We're just trying to generate revenue greater than our expenses, and create jobs, and continue to invest in the future. Long-term, we'll do fine. If others do as well or better, so what? It's good to keep perspective, whether it's about your company or your personal finances.

Y-LIFE: Are you bullish or bearish when it comes to the Internet?

BLOOMBERG: I'm uncertain about the business model of many of the Internet companies. They either give away information and hope for traffic and revenue from advertising, or hope to earn a small commission from electronic commerce. Whether or not that model works divides those who think that Internet stocks are great investments and underpriced from those who think they are overpriced.

Y-LIFE: Well? Are they over- or underpriced?

BLOOMBERG: I don't know. But I do worry that most Internet companies have very low profit margins—and an enormous amount of competition, so their margins will get even lower. The competition is great for consumers, who get a better deal, but I don't see how most of these companies will ever make an appreciable amount of money.

Y-LIFE: Bottom line, what's your advice about these stocks?

BLOOMBERG: Mainly, I think that you should never invest a meaningful percentage of your assets in any speculative group of stocks. The Internet stocks may work out, but they are highly speculative. They are very volatile and pricey, judged by any historical standard.

Y-LIFE: Some economists say that the historical standards don't apply, that this is an entirely new industry in a new world.

BLOOMBERG: Stocks trade on two bases. One is the discounted future value of an earnings stream. To figure out what that might be, you have stock analysts and economists. The other way that stocks trade is based on beliefs, religion, and unproved concepts. To study that way of trading, you rely primarily on publicists and psychologists. The so-called new industry in a new world is much too speculative for me. Las Vegas may have better

odds, as far as I'm concerned.

Y-LIFE: Do you have any Internet stocks in your personal portfolio?

BLOOMBERG: I'm in the news business, so I don't own any stocks whatsoever. But if I did, I wouldn't have Internet stocks. I don't have the guts to own them. People with a lot more courage than I have are the ones buying them.

Y-LIFE: Could some of your pessimism be sour grapes? The Net provides information to average people that they couldn't get in the past when they had to rely on brokers and other professionals—professionals who in turn rely on Bloomberg's services.

BLOOMBERG: Nothing has changed as far as our customers are concerned. Our professional product that sells for \$1,200 a month remains the key to our business. It's not suitable for the man on the street but is, I hope, very suitable for people who make a living trading and researching and selling for others. Most of our customers access it by way of our own worldwide network. We spend roughly \$90 million a year on long-distance costs to provide it. It's a dedicated network that goes to a limited number of places: 120,000 terminals worldwide. We maintain it and watch it all the time and tweak it for our needs.

The advantage that our proprietary network gives our customers is going away with time, though. Soon the Net will be fast enough and reliable enough so that we won't need our own network.

But we're only talking about the way to disseminate the information. The essence of what we're selling won't change, whether it's distributed on the Internet or our network. In spite of all the finance sites, from **Intuit** [www.intuit.com] to **Yahoo! Finance** [finance.yahoo.com], we still are the source for the people inside this industry.

Y-LIFE: What's the difference between the proprietary site and what you offer for free at Bloomberg.com?

BLOOMBERG: The Web site is for consumers and essentially has the same information as many other sites out there—the Intuits and the others. Still, apparently a lot of people like it, because many visitors come every day. Our real business is the news we provide to our customers for \$1,200 a month. Whether

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people have not benefited from the soaring market. Most people are invested in mutual funds, and the funds are lagging dramatically behind. But that's OK. People may forget this in a time of a soaring market, but I still think there isn't any free lunch. Maybe I'm wrong this time, but I don't think so. Most people have to go out and work hard for a living and make it in slow nickels rather than quick dimes. That's just the way it is. I worry these days that everybody seems to want something for nothing. Not everybody, but many. In our company, we're not involved in any

they get it via the Internet or our current system, they'll still pay \$1,200 a month as long as we continue to provide information that's unavailable elsewhere.

Y-LIFE: At some point, however, couldn't the free sites provide much of the same information?

BLOOMBERG: It costs an awful lot of money to produce the quality and breadth and depth of our product. Our challenge is to make sure that we provide information people can't get elsewhere. Will we have competition for that kind of product from the advertiser-supported sites? It takes us 5,000 people to produce what we produce. If you want to compete with us, you're not going to do it with four or 40 or 400 people. Advertising-supported sites can afford only a small number of people.

Y-LIFE: But won't the Net hurt your business when more and more ordinary people

become their own traders? Just as the Net will likely mean fewer travel agents, won't it mean fewer brokers, and therefore fewer customers for Bloomberg?

BLOOMBERG: If you look at the revenues of all the major security companies, none is declining, in spite of all this new trading by people from their homes and offices. I think the people who are trading on their own are ones who wouldn't have traded at all or would not have traded much otherwise. It's an incremental business, if you will. Most people who are in this in a serious way want the advice and guidance of a broker. That's still true. I wouldn't be surprised if some of the people who are trying it on their own realize that there's a reason for professionals in this industry.

Y-LIFE: Many people trading at home are

day traders. How is that new phenomenon affecting the market?

BLOOMBERG: It makes many stocks, especially Internet stocks, much more volatile. Whether that's good or bad is a value judgment, but it definitely adds to the volatility.

"YOU HEAR ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE SUCCESSFUL, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY STUDIES SHOWING THAT MOST PEOPLE WHO DAY TRADE MAKE MONEY"

Y-LIFE: Do you have advice for the people who are day trading?

BLOOMBERG: You hear about people who are successful, but I haven't seen any studies showing that most people who day trade make money. It strains credibility to think that these people are smarter than the professionals with all the professionals' tools. I may be wrong; it may very well be that these people have discovered a way to create gold. But every time an alchemist comes along claiming to be able to create gold, they turn out to be charlatans. Maybe this time's different.

Y-LIFE: One problem that online investors have seen is the technology itself—frequent system crashes that prohibit timely trading. How serious are they?

BLOOMBERG: I don't know how big of a problem it is. The New York Stock Exchange closes when there's a big snowstorm in Manhattan, and people survive, though I know it's hard to believe.

The people who worry about this may be the ones who carry a pager that lets them trade while they're driving their car. I'm not worried about it, because 1) people who overtrade like that are going to be out of business pretty soon, and 2) as my kids would say, "Get a life."

Y-LIFE: Wouldn't you be frustrated if the market were sliding and you wanted out of a stock?

BLOOMBERG: Generally, people who succeed in this business are the ones who are thinking more long-term than that. I'm not here to criticize others, though.

CUT AND PASTE

A Sampler of Advice from Bloomberg.com

Nah, Minute-Traders Don't Lose; But Just in Case

If you're among the penny-stock gamblers messing with the goofy new "minute-trading" game, you won't be interested in reading this. But clipping and saving wouldn't hurt. You may not care about your (albeit skimpy) legal rights during these easy-money days. But there's a good chance you'll be interested in blaming someone other than yourself on the inevitable day when wins turn consistently to losses.

Minute-traders are a new breed of misguided investors—if the word can be used so loosely—who divine their next trading move by watching for tips on the Web.

*Best advice: "Don't do it in the first place."
—Susan Antilla*

Show Me the Money

What's the key to unlocking venture capital? A good plan. It's one thing to come up with a great idea for a product. It's quite another to convince somebody with a lot of money to help bring that product to market.... Venture capitalists are riding high these days, investing

more than \$14 billion last year in more than 2,800 deals—many in Internet-related technologies. Yet for every deal venture capitalists did, there were countless deals they didn't do.

It wasn't necessarily that the people seeking money had bad ideas. More likely the people with the ideas didn't know how to pitch them to those with money. How to sell better? One way is to make sure you, the entrepreneur, understand exactly what it is you wish to say. I always say, define the concept; define the product. Most important, define what it is that makes your product or service absolutely indispensable.

—Michael Bloomberg

The Ever-Political Euro

The problem [with the euro] is that the group of European politicians now in control have come to power on a promise to create more jobs than their predecessors. All this high-brow razzmatazz about having a monetary union for peace in the next century could get stale very fast if the center-left can't deliver on jobs and the ECB doesn't help out with cheap money.

—David DeRosa

If people want to go to Las Vegas and put their money on double zero, it's their business. If they want to bet that a stock is going to go up because somebody they know only through some chat line says it's going to go up, they have a right to do that, and it doesn't make them bad persons. But my advice to them: Don't do it with the rent money.

Y-LIFE: How low do you think online trading commissions will go?

BLOOMBERG: They could go to zero. In the end, however, if there isn't real substance and value added that is distinguishable from others', competitive pressures send these companies into territory where it's uneconomic. The marketplace is very efficient. It doesn't always work smoothly and quickly, but it tends to work.

Y-LIFE: Another Internet-related market trend is the initial-public-offering frenzy. What do you make of it?

BLOOMBERG: It doesn't make a lot of sense to me. It's a fad of the moment. Fads come and go. Now it's Internet stocks, and everyone wants in at the ground floor. In 1981, there were 28 or 29 computer manufacturers that were or went public. Their stocks traded at phenomenal prices. Out of the 28 or 29 companies, two are still in business, and neither is the biggest. The two biggest computer manufacturers weren't even formed then. Will all these Internet companies be around in 10 and 20 years?

Y-LIFE: How concerned are you about privacy on the Net?

BLOOMBERG: I'm the first one to defend my right to my private life, but I don't have a problem if the telephone company can trace my phone calls, since they can be used for the purpose of tracking down obscene calls, fraud, or other crimes. I don't have a problem that there's an audit trail for whatever paperwork I send out that can be used for the purposes of stopping liability and slander. The point is, I understand why you would be concerned about privacy if you are a crook—I understand why you'd want to worry about an audit trail if you are a pornographer, for example—but *I'm* not worried about it. If you are concerned about leaving a trail, don't send things out. If you do, why shouldn't there be ways for whomever you

send it to to track back? You're initiating the conversation. You choose to communicate; it doesn't seem to me you have any right, God-given or constitutional, to initiate a conversation and not have to be held responsible for your actions. That's what this whole thing is about.

Y-LIFE: Aren't you concerned that someone, whether the government or an individual, might use online information for such nefarious reasons as fraud or checking up on someone in an opposing political party?

BLOOMBERG: Security is important, and there should be protections. Of course you want to protect yourself against crime. At our company, we spend a lot of time to make sure nobody can crack in to our network. We have a group that does nothing but try to figure out any holes, any ways anybody can get in.

But overall, fraud is almost always detected and almost always punished. If somebody manages to get into your computer and take the entire inventory from the Bundesbank and move it to their Luxembourg checking account, it's likely that they'll be caught. In a practical sense, when they try to cash a check for \$100 billion, they're going to find that they can't get the money.

There is a certain amount of pilferage, and there are dishonest people all the time, but the online issues aren't any different from the ones in the rest of the world. Most of us still go to a restaurant and give somebody we don't know our credit card. They take it away and come back. Who knows how many copies were made? Not long ago, people used to demand the receipt and would then rip it up. Of all the ridiculous things! If someone was going to steal your credit card number, they could have made copies in the back. It rarely happens, and there are ways to deal with it if it does. The truth is, most people who think we have security problems are consultants who sell solutions. Similarly, most people really worried about Y2K are selling solutions to Y2K. It's not that there aren't security and Y2K issues, but they are overblown.

Y-LIFE: In April, someone spread a fictional report about a stock, PairGain, and

attributed it to Bloomberg, and the stock's price shot up. Are you concerned about the veracity of information on the Net? Are you concerned about Bloomberg's reputation after that incident?

BLOOMBERG: I would have been more concerned if someone tried to fake a message from one of our competitors. It's flattering that someone thinks that our name attached to a news story denotes a credibility that moves markets. So I'm thrilled in that way. But the real point is that yes, it's a very big concern. In the old days, it was awfully hard to fake the source of information. Today, at least to the layman's eye, it's not very difficult to do. It's another argument to those who suggest that all information is good information.

Our customers were never confused by this report, because they don't go to Internet chat boards for their news. Information is only part of the goal; it must be good information. Meanwhile, the FBI apparently found out who created the Melissa virus fairly quickly, and it didn't take the federal authorities long to figure out who did this one, too.

Y-LIFE: The Net's real revolution is that it frees information, whether good or bad, from the province of "experts." Yet you could argue that this kind of democratization is not as important as reliable, well-sourced information.

BLOOMBERG: Good information is pretty important, and *good* is the operative word. Warren Buffet [the legendary investor and chairman of Berkshire Hathaway]

**"I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU
WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT
PRIVACY IF YOU ARE A CROOK...
BUT I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT IT"**

always claimed that he doesn't have a terminal on his desk, though some of his people have terminals, I would think. But the point is this: You can look at a lot of trees and not see the forest. At the same time, people who drive with their eyes closed eventually will hit a tree—I don't care how sparse the forest.

Smells like

Toon Spirit

BY CARLA SINCLAIR

Lacking the costs and constraints of TV, the Web has lured cartoonists and animators of every stripe. Now all the activity is reaching a Flash point



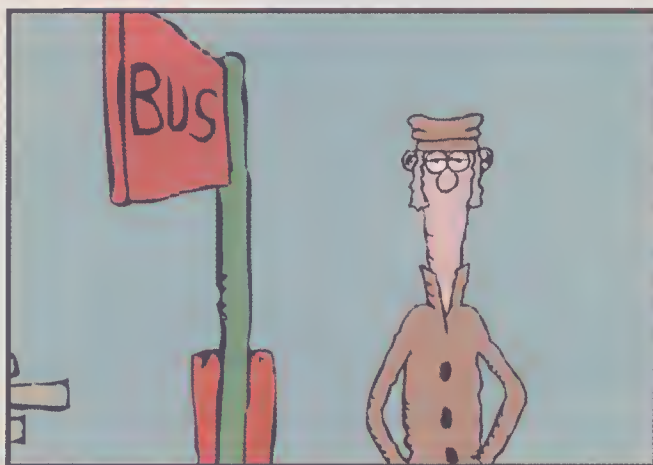
POOR JIMMY. WITH A MAJOR SLOUCH, PINK facial blemishes, and uncontrollable drool, the gawky, speechless preadolescent doesn't have much going for him. Jimmy is known to everyone as Jimmy the Idiot

Boy. He lives with his loudmouthed, beer-bellied uncle, George Liquor, who makes Archie Bunker look refined. No one seems to care when stubby little Uncle George pours sizzling bacon grease down Jimmy's gullet, or when he wakes Jimmy up in



Clockwise from bottom: Jimmy the Idiot Boy, Pink Donkey, Tommy Sausage, WhirlGirl





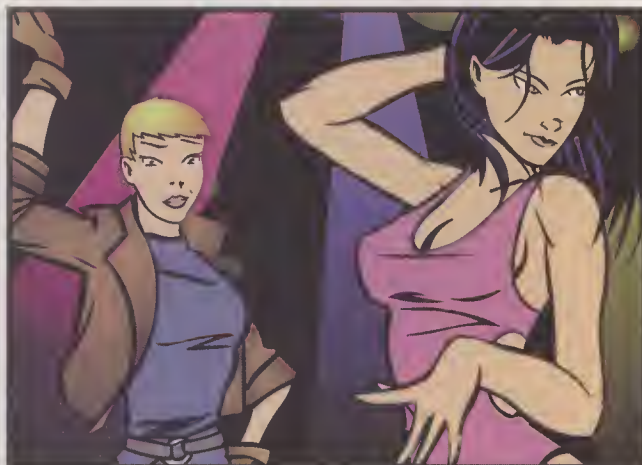
Left to right: Tommy Sausage; WhirlGirl; George and Jimmy from *The Goddamn George Liquor Program*; and Bearhug, a new Stan Lee villain.

the morning by twisting a stick in his ear.

It's all quite hilarious, really. See, George and Jimmy are the animated stars of *The Goddamn George Liquor Program* (www.spumco.com), a cutting-edge cartoon that has found a home on the Internet. Although other types of original Net programming have failed to gain a foothold in the medium—wired soap operas and game shows, for example—Web 'toons have launched a colorful, noisy attack on formerly staid browsers everywhere.

Once upon a time not very long ago, the picture was bleak for independent animators. "Artists lost the business of animation; they got taken over by corporations," says John Kricfalusi, George Liquor's creator. Kricfalusi speaks from experience. In the '80s he shook up the world of animation when he created the hysterically crude and offbeat cult hit *Ren and Stimpy*, a Sunday-morning cartoon (which Nickelodeon bought) about a high-strung Chihuahua and his dim-witted feline sidekick. Unfortunately, the tight boundaries of television hemmed in Kricfalusi's more radical ideas.

"George Liquor first debuted on that show. He was supposed to be one of the main characters, Ren and Stimpy's master, but [Nickelodeon] hated him," says Kricfalusi. "George only made it into a couple of episodes."



Rather than surrender to the network suits, Kricfalusi decided that the Web was animation's new frontier. Using Flash, a revolutionary software program for creating online animation, he was able to launch *The Goddamn George Liquor Program* in 1997, making it the first episodic Web 'toon. With a vibrant color palette lifted straight out of Looney Tunes, and image quality that puts streaming video to shame, it almost makes you forget you're watching the cartoon on a computer screen.

Until, that is, you get to the close-up of George's dog moving his morning bowels, or the interactive segment in which you must take part in an unmentionable activity involving a duck, a funnel, and Jimmy the Idiot Boy, before moving on with the story. Even in the era of *South Park*'s foulmouthed grade-schoolers, Kricfalusi's vision isn't exactly made-for-TV entertainment. "Animation is freer and more inventive online," he says.

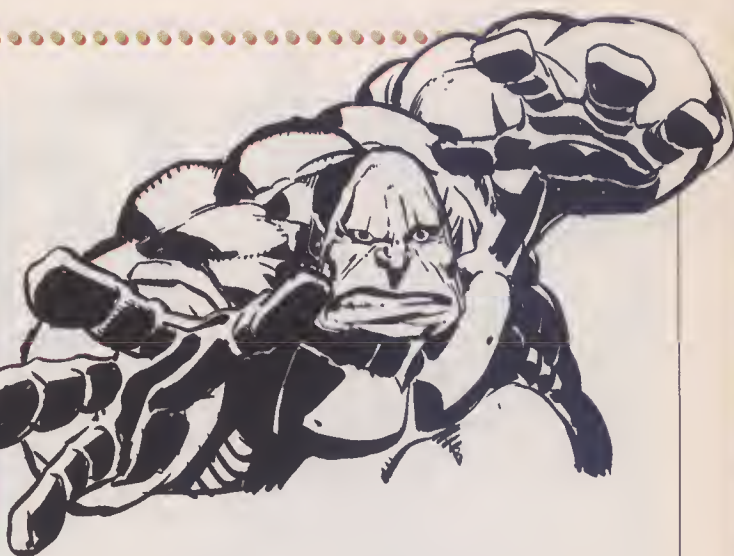
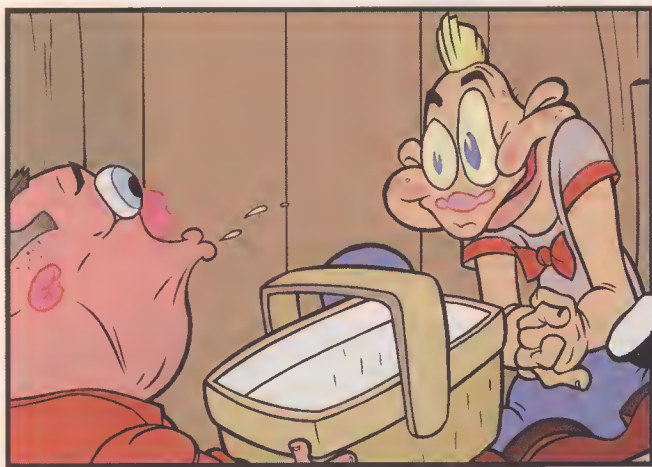
Kricfalusi isn't the only animator who has stepped away from TV and toward the Web. Take Andy Wyatt, whose *Tommy Sausage* (www.eggtoons.com) cartoon conjures up a bizarre world that revolves around a chicken-obsessed degenerate. Wyatt actually works as an animator for European television, but was inspired by the freedom and potential worldwide audience of the Web. "TV rules and regulations are often ridiculous," he says. "On the Web, anything goes."

Much of the credit for the boom in Web animation belongs

Rate That 'Toon

NAME	URL	COMMENTS	RATING
 Disney.com	www.disney.com	It's Disney—need we say more?	G
 B. Happy/Pink Donkey and the Fly	www.cartoonnetwork.com/wpt	Adorably irreverent	PG
 Honkorm	www.honkorm.com	Self-described as "photo-surrealism"	PG
 StanLee.net	www.stanlee.net	A Hulk-ing presence on the Web	PG
 WhirlGirl	www.showtimeonline.com/whirlgirl	The sci-fi soap of the next millennium	R
 The Goddamn George Liquor Program	www.spumco.com	Looney Toons meets David Lynch	NC17
 Tommy Sausage	www.eggtoons.com	For the deranged only	NC17

RATINGS: G = Granny-friendly; PG = Pubescent Giggles; R = Racy!; NC17 = Naughty Chuckles



to Macromedia, a 7-year-old San Francisco-based company that released Flash in 1996. Because of its aesthetically rich and fluid effects, Flash has quickly become the standard for Web animation, and such companies as Disney, Cartoon Network, and Showtime are rushing to collaborate with Macromedia. Meanwhile, droves of independent animators finally have a means of producing their work, because Flash allows them to bypass the high costs of TV by using the Web as an alternative medium. Even Flash's most popular showcase, **ShockRave** [www.shockrave.com], toes the line between corporate and cutting edge, housing such mainstays as *Dilbert* and *Peanuts* alongside work from the 'toon underground.

"I think the Web is going to have a big impact in allowing animators who could not have otherwise found an audience to reach fans and to practice their craft," says Fabrice Florin, Macromedia's vice president of online entertainment. "It's pretty important for us [at ShockRave] to feature the up-and-coming artists, because they'll be the folks who'll appear on television in the future."

Actually, that's already happened with one of ShockRave's own featured underground 'toons. After *Honkworm* (also found at www.honkworm.com), an absurd Monty Python-esque moving collage about city-living fish, caught the eyes of MTV execs in '97, the network decided to air it without modification, making it the first Flash-based production designed for a 28.8Kbps modem to run on national TV. Honkworm International is now creating 130 Flash-based 30-second spots for Fox Sports.

The Web may be the obvious medium for independent animators, but it's just as appealing for the executives of TV networks, film studios, and other entertainment companies. A couple of Web-born programs that may be stepping over to the other small screen include Cartoon Network.com's *Pink Donkey and the Fly* and *B. Happy* [www.cartoonnetwork.com/wpt], two sumptuous, irreverent Web 'toons created by influential pop-culture artists Gary Panter and Mark Newgarden.

"Cartoon Network.com has always been open to TV as a possibility, if we become popular enough," says Devin Flynn, *Pink Donkey*'s lead animator. An even more aggressive online test-run is Showtime's *WhirlGirl* [www.showtimeonline.com/whirlgirl], an animated series about a punky twentysomething superheroine fighting to protect the world from high-tech villains.


"Why invest millions of dollars in television pilots and go

through all the infrastructure around that, then try to find a time slot for it, launch it, and hope to get a good response back, when you can really be using the Internet to do the same thing?" asks David B. Williams, *WhirlGirl*'s creator and chief executive of Visionary Media. The company has been commissioned to create 28 original "Webisodes" for Showtime this year. "Clearly," Williams explains, "one of the next steps is the development of *WhirlGirl* the TV series."

But not every Web 'toon company thinks of the Net as a stepladder to reach the airwaves. "The Internet is a unique medium in its own right," says Peter Paul, who cofounded Stan Lee Media with legendary Stan "The Man" Lee of Marvel Comics. Together they are in the process of launching **StanLee.net** [www.stanlee.net], which will be "the largest community site on the Internet for 10- to 20-year-olds," says Paul. "[The site] will be a hybrid of animation, interactivity, and audio applications."

Lee, who cocreated *Spider-Man*, *The Fantastic Four*, *The Incredible Hulk*, and *The Silver Surfer*, will be introducing his first new team of superheroes in 25 years. "There is really so much more freedom on the Internet," he says, adding, "It won't be too long before the quality of animation will actually match what you can get in a theater."

As Lee's example proves, the old guard is embracing this new technology. Take Disney, for example. With more than 900,000 hits per day, **Disney.com** [www.disney.com] is naturally one of the most popular entertainment sites in cyberspace. Much of that popularity is due to Web-based animation. In the Club Blast area, kids of all ages submit original stories, which Disney brings to life as short animated cartoons. (This feature has become so popular that the overwhelmed Disney staff had to take a breather.) "The Web is definitely a different medium than television or film," says Adam Breivis, art director of Disney.com. "There's interactivity, and you've got community."

Once the virtual dust settles, who will fare better online—the new and experimental independents, or the more established and traditional animation companies? "They're both important," says ShockRave's Florin. "What the established studio does is validate this art form and make it popular, while the independent artist is able to break new ground. So they both need each other." And for the first time in the history of animation, they will both be able to perform on the same stage. 

Soul Food

He's a sex machine.
An R&B legend.
And a Web surfer?
South Park's Isaac
Hayes explains why
he digs the Net



HAYES: KWAKU ALSTON/OUTLINE; SOUTH PARK: PARAMOUNT PICTURES

THANKS TO HIS 1972 OSCAR-WINNING score for the blaxploitation classic *Shaft*, Isaac Hayes has already secured a spot in the pop-culture pantheon. But Hayes is more than just *Shaft*. Much more. With David Porter, he wrote dozens of classic soul hits, including "Soul Man" and "When Something Is Wrong with My Baby." In 1993, he was named an African king by the royal family of Noyami Mantse in Ghana. Strange, then, that he's probably best known today for voicing

B the libidinous cafeteria chef on Comedy Central's hit cartoon, *South Park*.

Y Not that Hayes, 56, minds. The prolific singer, composer, and actor is really cooking of late. He hosts his own New York R&B radio show, *Isaac Hayes & Friends*, on 98.7 KISS FM. His single "Chocolate Salty Balls" (from the album *Chef Aid*) climbed to the top of the British and Australian pop charts and recently went platinum. And he's even got a new movie to promote: *South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut*, the first *South Park* feature, in which he reprises his role as Chef.

I Fresh from his four-hour morning radio block, Hayes checked in with *Y-Life* to serve up the dish on his offi-

Hayes Wired: (left) The essence of '70s cool; (right) Chef and the gang go ballistic in the new *South Park* movie.

cial Web site [www.isaachayes.com], *South Park* creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker, and his dream of someday making sweet love to Halle Berry.

Y-Life: So they say this cat Chef is one bad nuutha...

Hayes: Shut your mouth.

Y-Life: But I'm talkin' about Chef, not Shaft.

Hayes: [Laughs] Then I can dig it.

Y-Life: I'm not sure your fans realize that, at least according to Net rumors, you nearly walked out of your first meeting with Matt Stone and Trey Parker—and away from the role of Chef.

Hayes: Well, yeah, because I thought they were crazy. The script they showed me was a little strong. I mean, I'd never seen anything like it before. When I read it, I thought, "Man, should I really do this?"

"I'll ruin my reputation." When I was told I was going to read for a voice-over part, I had high hopes. I was disappointed, because I thought I was being offered a role for a Disney movie.

Y-Life: *What finally convinced you to take the role?*

Hayes: Well, it was so far out there that I just cracked up. At first, I thought somebody was playing a joke on me. Matt and Trey kept saying, "No, no, it's not a joke." And I said, "Are you guys for real about this? You're crazy!" Their script was totally cutting-edge. I asked them, "Are you guys indemnified? Are you insured?" And they said, "Everything is cool." So I said, "You know what? You guys are crazy. But I'm going to take this role anyway, take a shot." And that's how it started.

Y-Life: *Matt and Trey write the lyrics to Chef's songs. But do you score the music?*

Hayes: Sometimes. When people say, "Hey, Isaac, did you write this song or that song?" I like to be able to say, "No, I'm not guilty of that." [Laughs] Actually, Matt and Trey write most of the music. They do everything. But Matt and Trey...their lyrics...they put so many in one damn bar that you have to really work at that s - - t.

Y-Life: *It takes a lot of practice to sing "Love Gravy," eh?*

Hayes: I don't have a lot of time to practice. I just run down to the studio and say, "Roll the tape, and let's see what we get."

Y-Life: *You've written some pretty racy lyrics in your time. Still, some of the lyrics in Chef's songs must shock even you.*

Hayes: When I first read the song "Chocolate Salty Balls"—oooh, boy! I said to the guys, "Hey, hey, hey, are we going too far here?" But, oh, it was great, man. Every country that speaks English outside of the U.S. loves it. The song was on my *Chef Aid* album, which was the No. 1 single in England. In Australia, it went triple platinum. The single beat up the Spice Girls on the charts.

Y-Life: *Besides your radio and TV shows, you also have a Web site you work on, don't you?*

Hayes: Yeah, the site went live on my birthday last year, August 20. People have been urging me over the years to have a fan club. When the Web came about, I

said to myself, "I need to take advantage of this." So I launched it and put a lot of information on there. Now I'm at the point when I may start doing some merchandising on the Web.

Y-Life: *Would you consider auctioning off that fur-trimmed tuxedo you wore at the 1972 Academy Awards ceremony? Please?*

Hayes: [Laughs] Well, I think I've already gotten rid of all that stuff. Net fans are too late. I've been contributing to auctions over the years. I think that outfit is gone. But I'll check a few more closets.

Y-Life: *You also use the Net to help educate kids in Ghana.*

Hayes: Yes, I'm part of something called Literacy Links: 2000. The project is connected with my position as the international spokesperson for the World Literacy Crusade. I'm building a school in Ghana. And I believe the next logical step for the project is to bring some communication between kids in the villages of Africa and the kids in the inner cities of America. This way, they can have some cultural and informational exchanges.

Y-Life: *Your site also lets visitors click through an Isaac Hayes photo album. In it, there's a 1974 newspaper clipping that quotes you defending screen stars who accept exploitative roles, like in Truck Turner and Three Tough Guys. Have you had to defend your role as Chef?*

Hayes: Nobody has ever criticized me for the role of Chef. I think that's because Matt and Trey are equal-opportunity insulters. No one is safe from their stings.

Y-Life: *Especially not Kathie Lee Gifford.*

Hayes: I did actually worry about upsetting Kathie Lee Gifford when the show first started. I don't worry about upsetting other entertainers. But I know she has a wonderful sense of humor. We haven't talked about the episode, but I'm sure the next time I see her, we will.

Y-Life: *OK, last question: If there were one celebrity you could guest-star with on South Park, who would it be, and why?*

Hayes: Mmmm, let me see. Well, it would be Halle Berry and Salma Hayek.

Y-Life: *I said, "If there were one celebrity..."*

Hayes: Well, you know, I would want Chef to make sweet love to both of them. ☒

South Park Sitings

COMEDY CENTRAL: SOUTH PARK

www.comedycentral.com/southpark

Where better to start your *South Park* Web tour than at the TV show's official site. Episode storyboards, booster-club info, and a Q&A with cocreators Matt Stone and Trey Parker are all in the mix. Also check out a slew of killer *South Park* Shockwave and Flash games, including our personal favorite, Mr. Hankey's Construction Set. Also check in with Paramount's official movie site, *South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut* [www.southparkmovie.com].

BEEF-CAKE.COM

www.beef-cake.com

This exhaustive site is bigger than Cartman himself. Participate in chat rooms and episode discussion boards, check out show secrets, and wade through more than 2,800 sound files.



SWEET

sweet.stomped.com

See Cartman in 3-D. (Yes, that's a lot of beefcake.) The rendered art comes alive in the form of movie-poster spoofs, wallpaper, and digital calendars.

SHOCKRAVE

www.shockrave.com

Don't miss ToonMaker, a *South Park* episode creator that lets you fashion your own animated clips.

SOUTH PARK CENTRAL

www.spcentral.com

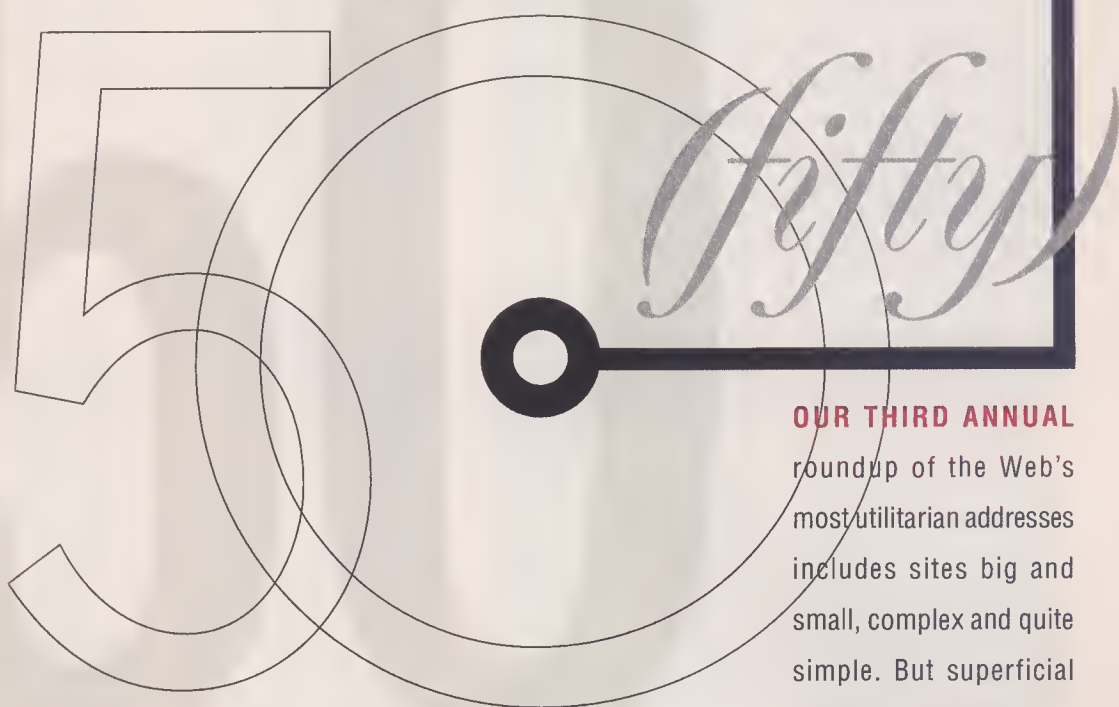
At this fan megasite, visitors can download full episodes of *South Park*.

—Dalton Ross

Click to www.yil.com/southpark for our exclusive online-only *South Park* Web guide.

COURTESY OF SWEET.COM





OUR THIRD ANNUAL

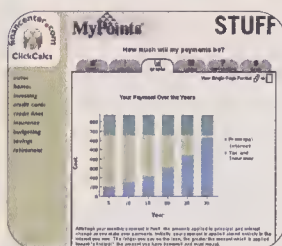
roundup of the Web's most utilitarian addresses includes sites big and small, complex and quite simple. But superficial differences aside, they all share one trait: Without them, you won't be getting much done online.

MOST

**Incredibly
USEFUL**
sites

COMPILED BY
RICHARD WITNER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
FRANCISCO CACERES

PERSONAL FINANCE



» ANSWER FINANCIAL QUERIES Financenter.com ClickCalcs

www.financenter.com/calcs.html

Any financial site worth its bandwidth lets you calculate a hypothetical mortgage or weigh the pros and cons of a Roth IRA. But Financenter.com goes the extra distance, providing not just these ubiquitous tools but also eight dozen additional monetary calculators. "How long should I keep a car?" and "How do exchange rates affect my foreign stocks?" are just a couple of its sophisticated offerings.

» TRACK STOCKS IN REAL TIME

Thomson Real Time Quotes

rtq.thomsoninvest.net

Look closely. See that "all quotes delayed 20 minutes" disclaimer in small type on your favorite stock-ticker Web site? Sign up here, and end the wait.

» FIND AN ATM

Visa ATM Locator

www.visa.com/atms

The MasterCard/Cirrus ATM Locator

www.mastercard.com/atm

It's modern-day alchemy: Plastic will transmute into paper money, provided you use an automated teller machine to make the switch. Locate one of these mystical devices using Visa and MasterCard's worldwide ATM locators.

» RESEARCH BANK RATES

Bankrate.com

www.bankrate.com

The prime rate is falling, but your

credit-card interest rate hasn't budged. How strange. Those looking for greener lending pastures can sign up for Bank Rate Monitor's free e-mail alert. This is a great way to track changes in interest rates for mortgages, credit cards, and home and auto loans—while you're out spending the green.

» CALCULATE EXCHANGE RATES

The "Full" Universal

Currency Converter

www.xe.net/currency/full

The Universal Currency Converter

www.xe.net/currency

Translate between 180 different versions of the root of all evil, including the brand-new euro. If your needs are less exotic, the classic version of this site handles the 80-odd most-swapped currencies.

» FIND CHEAPER INSURANCE

InsWeb

www.insweb.com

Confirm or dispel that fear of paying too much for your insurance at InsWeb. Comparison shop here for auto insurance, life insurance, home owner's insurance, renter's insurance, and health insurance. InsWeb includes a passel of handy calculators, including one that helps you estimate the value of your possessions, so you can buy enough renter's insurance coverage.

REFERENCE

» ANSWER A TRIVIA QUESTION

Infoplease.com

www.infoplease.com

What is the state flower of Alabama? You'll find the answer to such basic (yet puzzling) questions as this at the online version of this enduring reference. Most useful is its Fact Finder, a searching tool you get to keep at your virtual side as you browse the Web. (Oh—the answer is, of course, the camellia.)

» LOOK UP A WORD

OneLook Dictionaries

www.onelook.com

OneLook is the metasearcher of the dictionary world. Type in any word, and instead of searching just a single volume OneLook will probe its huge list of specialized and general dictionaries to give you the most comprehensive group of definitions.

» LOOK UP FOREIGN WORDS

A Web of On-line Dictionaries

www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/rbeard/diction.html

This compendium of links includes many variations on the international-dictionary theme. You'll find the Welsh Spell-Checker here, as well as the Esperanto-Russian Dictionary. You may not want to quit your day job and sign up with the United Nations, but it's a great way to pepper your prose with a few exotic bons mots.

» TRANSLATE YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

AltaVista translation services

babelfish.altavista.com

Write a letter to your far-away relatives in English, then convert it to your grandparents' mother tongue with AltaVista's BabelFish translation service. Be advised: Machine translations can still yield humorously incorrect results. To make sure you get your points across, don't use too many idiomatic phrases.

» SOUND OFF TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mr. Smith E-Mails...

www.mrsmith.com

In 1939's *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, Jimmy Stewart's character did just that—he went to D.C. and ended up having his say in the Senate. But this isn't Hollywood, and it is almost the 21st century. The 1999 Web version of Mr. Smith provides all the online forms you'll need to sound off to the White House, Senate, and House of Rep-



Make sure pets don't peeve—do some research online first.

representatives simultaneously, without boarding a bus or even licking a stamp. And when the politicians won't listen, there are also forms for selected newspapers, magazines, and TV networks.

» GET GOVERNMENT STATS

FedStats

www.fedstats.gov

The truth is out there. You might not be able to confirm an alien contact, but you will find here just about any bit of government statistical data that is public knowledge, from agriculture to transportation.

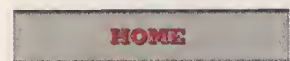


» LEARN ANYTHING

Learn2.com

www.learn2.com

They tried hard, but your parents somehow managed not to show you how to clean silverware. Come to think of it, you never learned how to serve wine, drive a car with a stick shift, play chess, or fight jet lag, either. Save the resentments for your therapy session, but catch up on lessons lost at Learn2.com. Hmmm, so *that's* what a "first down" is!



» GET HELP RELOCATING

Virtual Relocation.com

www.virtualrelocation.com

Thinking of moving from New York to Seattle? You will save a bundle in local income taxes, but you'll have fewer than half as many sunny days. So says the Compare Cities feature of Virtual Relocation.com, which generates a side-by-side statistical comparison of your present and potential hometowns.



» RENOVATE YOUR HOUSE

Better Homes and Gardens Home Improvement Encyclopedia

www.bhglive.com/homeimp/docs

The kitchen faucet is leaky. The bathroom wallpaper is from 1966—and it shows. You could call a plumber and a painter (and thus spend a lot of cash), or you could tackle both jobs yourself. But don't replace an inch of pipe before consulting this versatile reference.

» KNDW WHEN TO PLANT

The Old Farmer's Almanac

www.almanac.com

Whether you're an overall-wearing, tobacco-chewing real McCoy, or more of a back-to-the-earth weekend country dweller, you'll find wisdom and old-timey advice here. Learn the significance of red-letter days, and read next month's weather predictions.

» CHOOSE THE PERFECT PET

AOL.com Pets Decision Guide

www.aol.personallogic.com/?product=pets,aolcom,aolcom

If your kid wants to get a Great Dane, but your already crowded apartment is better suited to a hermit crab, consult AOL's Pets Decision Guide for wisdom in making a tears-free compromise. Plug in your preferences concerning size, smell, maintenance, and personality, among other variables, and this impartial decision-maker will tell you what type of domesticated critter is best suited to your lifestyle and environs.

10 NET-USEFUL SITES

The essential tools of Web navigation

SEARCH THE WEB

1. Yahoo!

www.yahoo.com

2. MetaCrawler

www.metacrawler.com

Though Yahoo!'s become a great deal more than just a directory, sorting out the Net's chaos remains its strongest suit. But when your search involves a more obscure name or phrase, MetaCrawler will wend its way through as many as nine search engines and directories simultaneously, including Lycos, Yahoo!, and MiningCo.com.

SEARCH USENET

3. Deja.com

www.deja.com

This friendly portal to thousands of Usenet newsgroups

DOWNLOAD SHAREWARE

6. ZDNet Software Library

www.hotfiles.com

Still running Netscape Navigator 2.0? Maybe it's time to upgrade. ZDNet houses oodles of shareware and freeware downloads—and that means the actual files, not links to slower (or even dead) sites. (ZDNet is operated by our parent company.)

FIND A NET PROVIDER

7. The List

thelist.internet.com

Sometimes the only way to end busy signals is to switch Net providers. Choose from a list of almost 7,000 here, searchable by area code, cost, and the type of services offered (dial-up, ISDN, DSL).

UNCOVER HDAXES

8. Computer Virus Myths

kumite.com/myths

Oh, look—the Good Times virus is plaguing us again! As if. Learn here which virus warnings are hoaxes and which you should take seriously.

FIND E-MAIL LISTS

9. Liszt

www.liszt.com

Moderated mailing lists are far friendlier and less "noisy" than newsgroups, though they are not so easy to find and join. Liszt dishes the facts on more than 90,000 such discussions.

FOLLOW SITE UPDATES

10. Mind-it

www.netmind.com/html/users.html

Give Mind-it a list of Web sites, and it'll update you—via e-mail, a Web page, or even a pager notice—when these sites update their content.

TRACK NET EVENTS

5. Yahoo! Net Events

events.yahoo.com

This daily listing of the top events includes attractions both interactive and non-, from celebrity chats to live surgical procedures.

» FIND YOUR NICHE
AOL Workplace Careers
Decision Guide

Tinker, tailor, soldier, or spy? Those wrestling with career choices (or lack thereof) can take the Careers Decision Guide test. Find out here what color your parachute really is, then take the rest of the day off.



» **SET YOUR WATCH**
USNO Master Clock Time
tycho.usno.navy.mil/what.html
 Were you late again? Chances are excellent your watch isn't quite right. To know for sure, consult one of the most up-to-the-second authorities, the U.S. Naval Observatory. It takes only a minute. And besides, unless you're talking about tequila shots, the early bird indeed gets the worm.

to go to Dad's or Mom's alma mater, use the Web site of this renowned print reference to find a few options by name, or specify a field of study, student-body size, location, and other specs to get matching schools. Additionally, 1,000 or so of the colleges listed here let you file your application online through Peterson's.

» GET CUSTOM TV LISTINGS
Gist TV

www.thegist.com
Make better use of your prime couch time by consulting Gist's detailed broadcast listings. Enter your ZIP code for local listings, then customize away by category (movies, soaps, comedy, sci-fi) and preferred channels. Also good: *TV Guide Online* [www.tvguide.com].

Services so basic you can't surf without them

1. Weather.com

TRACK SPORTS SCORES

LISTEN TO LIVE RADIO

3. Broadcast.com

www.broadcast.com

Though streaming video hasn't achieved TV-like viewing quality, you can't beat the cornucopia of aural offerings at Broadcast.com. It's the Net's premier home of radio and TV news, sportscasts, live music, and on-demand music.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR NEWS

4. Excite NewsTracker

nt.excite.com

Select the topics that interest you and NewsTracker will scour the daily news from more than 300 online papers and magazines for articles that match your search terms.

FINO A PERSON OR BUSINESS

5. WHITE PAGES
The Ultimates
theultimates.com

6. YELLOW PAGES
Switchboard
www.switchboard.com

Consult the Ultimates and save yourself the phone-company fee when you've forgotten Uncle

[illegible]

for *bail bonds* (or other goods or services) by either company name or category.

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

7. DeLorme CyberMaps
www.delorme.com/CyberMaps

8. Maps On Us
www.mapsonus.com

Need to get from Point A to Point B? DeLorme's CyberRouter will map the quickest or the shortest route—even if your trip includes a ferry. If you're looking for a local map, consult Maps On Us for a guide to the 'hood.

FIND AN APARTMENT

9. SpringStreet

www.springstreet.com

Plug in a specific city and state, or even an exact street address, at this handy site (formerly Allapartments.com) to find living quarters of every shape and size. You'll even get pictures and floor plans with your search results.

FINO A HOUSE

10. Realtor.com
www.realtor.com
Stately manors and fixer-uppers abound at Realtor.com, the home of the National Association of Realtors. Click on its maps to search here for the house of your dreams, no matter what the price range.



» BUY CONCERT TICKETS

Ticketmaster Online

www.ticketmaster.com

Patronizing this reputable source saves you the hassle of last-minute dealings with sleazy scalpers—and besides, that's not a good example to set for the kids. Search here by event name or by location, and check out the seating charts so you'll know in advance how lousy (or how good, if you've got the dough) your seats are.

» FIND OUT WHICH BAND IS PLAYING WHERE—AND WHEN

Pollstar

www.pollstar.com

Are the Rolling Stones coming to town? Well, if there's a large enough supply of his blood type at the local hospitals, then Keith and the boys will play. Find out when and where at Pollstar, your searchable guide to music acts on tour.

» READ MOVIE REVIEWS FROM THE EXPERTS

Movie Review Query Engine

www.mrqe.com

Before you shell out the cash for that new "five-star" movie, get some smart opinions at the MRQE. Search by title to find links to reviews from famous critics (including our own Roger Ebert), and peruse the views of other surfers.

» RESOLVE MOVIE AND TV DEBATES

Internet Movie Database

www.imdb.com

Did Dick York replace Dick Sargent on *Bewitched*, or was it the other way around? Solve the bet you have with your smart-ass friend

by using the IMDb. The beauty of this reference is its ease of use: Just enter the title of a movie or TV show, and the IMDb spits out the entire cast list. Click on an actor's name and you get his or her filmography. How cool is that? And, in case you're wondering, Dick Sargent replaced Dick York.

» SEARCH FOR MUSIC FILES

Lycos MP3 Search

mp3.lycos.com

MP3 audio is the hottest file format to hit the wires since the first GIF images. But if you can't find what you want, search here for your favorite artist or song. Oh, by the way: Don't download any pirated works, because we know, of course, that such activity is illegal.



» FIND THE BEST AIRFARE

Bestfares.com

www.bestfares.com

Even if you have a travel agent you like, nothing beats getting down and dirty at the keyboard with a site such as Bestfares.com. Not really interested in traveling right now? There's nothing like a \$400 round-trip ticket to Paris to help change your mind.

» GET A GREAT TRAVEL DEAL

Online Vacation Mall

onlinevacationmall.com

Some people like to haggle for a bargain; others prefer the ease of plunking down a credit card and paying the going rate. This vacation hub provides both: bargains without a hassle. Pick your location and your destination and you'll get a variety of vaca-

tion packages from the spartan to the luxurious.

» READ SUBWAY SCHEDULES

City Rail Transit

pavel.physics.sunysb.edu/RR/metro.html

Subway riders of the world, unite! Click here to find route maps and facts about city rail transit worldwide—from the famous Paris Metro to Hoboken, New Jersey's PATH trains.

» FIND CHEAP LODGING

Hostels.com Worldwide Hostel Guide

www.hostels.com/hostel.menu.html

Hostels are a budget-travel mainstay. Search here to find a clean, well-lighted place, no matter where in this world you'll be.

» SEARCH FOR PARKS

L.L. Bean Park Search

www.llbean.com/parksearch

Feeling a bit existential about your 9-to-5 routine? Go take a hike, and let Park Search be your guide. Search here for the best place to visit by location or activity (rock climbing, fishing, skiing). And remember, please don't feed the bears.

» TRACK FLIGHTS

TheTrip.com FlightTracker

www.thetrip.com/usertools/flighttracking

If you're picking up someone at the airport, check on the flight here. Enter the airline name and flight number to get arrival times, or view a map that shows planes "in flight."

MEDICAL/LEGAL

» LOOK UP MEDICAL INFO

Mayo Clinic Health Oasis

www.mayohealth.org

Physicians and scientists from the famed Mayo Clinic share their expertise at this health hub. The Ask the Mayo Physician and Ask the

Why wear out the buttons on your remote control? Click here.

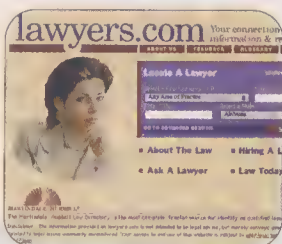


Mayo Dietitian features provide top-shelf advice at a low, low price (as in *free*).

» FIND A DOCTOR
AMA Physician Select
On-Line Doctor Finder

www.ama-assn.org/aps/amahg.htm

To paraphrase Flannery O'Connor, a good doctor is hard to find. But the American Medical Association can help. Search its database by name or by specialty to find a new doctor, or just to get the skinny on your current healer. Details include AMA membership status, office hours, accepted insurance plans, and professional training. Just what the doctor ordered.



» FIND A LAWYER
Lawyers.com

www.lawyers.com

Everybody needs one sometime, for better (a new house, perhaps) or worse (you didn't mean to slander your ex-brother-in-law, really). Search for a courtroom professional here by location, area of practice, and even language(s) spoken.

» LDDK UP HOME
HEALTH INFO
InteliHealth

www.intelihealth.com/IH/ih1IH
Not every medical question requires a doctor visit, at least initially. This Johns Hopkins site is on call "24/7" to answer your questions on everything from acne to vertigo.

» STAY HEALTHY OVERSEAS
CDC Travel Information

www.cdc.gov/travel/travelmap.html

Ready to travel abroad? Click any-

where on this site's global map first for tips on avoiding common ailments once you reach your destination. You'll get a primer on sidestepping specific conditions, medical supplies to take along for the ride, and vaccinations.

AUTOMOTIVE

» GET NEW CAR PRICES
Edmund's

www.edmunds.com

Unless you're buying a pay-one-price Saturn, it helps to know the true dealer cost of your potential new wheels. Get accurate pricing here by specifying the exact make, model, and features you want—before you start negotiating with the man in the polyester suit.

» RESEARCH OLD CAR PRICES
Kelley Blue Book

www.kbb.com

Your precious jalopy might be worth more (or less) than you expect. But don't just accept the dealer's figure at trade-in time; get the skinny here first. Or, if you're in the market for a used car, find out here how much you should pay, and let someone else take the depreciation hit.



» AVOID SPEED TRAPS
The WWW Speedtrap Registry

www.speedtrap.com

Tend to put the pedal to the metal? This database of nationwide contributions points you to the hot spots where doughnut-eaters lurk with their radar guns, so you can slow down and become a law-abiding citizen, of course.

MAIL SITES



» TRACK A PACKAGE
DHL Worldwide Express

www.dhl.com

FedEx

www.fedex.com

UPS

www.ups.com

U.S. Postal Service

www.usps.gov

When tracking down a wayward shipment, there's no need to be at the mercy of an uncaring customer-service representative. Plug in the package's tracking number at its carrier's Web site and you'll see just where your most recent eBay purchase is today.

» LDDK UP ZIP CODES
U.S. Postal Service ZIP+4
Code Lookup

www.usps.gov/ncsc/lookups/lookup_zip+4.html

Consult the Postal Service's guide to nine-digit ZIPs the next time you're stuck on those last four numbers. Plug in a business name or a street address to get its ZIP+4 code.

» FIND THE BEST SHIPPING RATE
InterShipper

www.intershipper.net

If you're not wedded to a particular courier, shop your package around here for the best deal. Plug in the package's details (such as weight, contents, and destination) and it tells you exactly how much Airborne Express, FedEx, UPS, RPS, DHL, and the U.S. Postal Service will charge to deliver the goods.

» FORWARD YOUR MAIL
MoversNet

www.usps.gov/moversnet

Download a U.S. Postal Service change-of-address form here when moving, instead of waiting in line at the post office. MoversNet also links to pertinent government agencies—such as the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Election Commission—who like to keep tabs on your whereabouts.

SHOPPING

» FIND THE BEST BDDK PRICE
BookBlvd.com

www.bookblvd.com

Type in the name of a book, in print or out, and BookBlvd.com forages through 25 online stores in search of the best price—including delivery charges. Search by author, title, ISBN, or keyword.



» MAKE AN EDUCATED
BUYING DECISION
CompareNet

www.compare.net

Those too busy (or simply unwilling) to roam 50 mall stores in search of the best cellular phone or camcorder can do much of this research at CompareNet. Don't miss its customizable side-by-side feature and price comparisons of competing products.

» GET PRODUCT REVIEWS
The Gadget Guru

www.gadgetguru.com

If you want to stay up on the latest crop of gear, such as DVD players and digital cameras, this is the place to bookmark and monitor. And the Gadget Guru now includes news and reviews of kitchen appliances, software, and even computer furniture.

incredibly USEFUL sites of tomorrow

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS ARE from the forthcoming book *BotGuide—The Internet's Hottest Tools That Work the Web for You* (HarperSanFrancisco, July '99, \$19.95), a Michael Wolff and Peter Rutten production

cowritten by Y-Life Executive Editor Ben Greenman. *BotGuide* reviews and rates hundreds of bots, the software robots that roam the Web performing specific jobs for us—the kinds of jobs that save time and organize our lives.

California Politicians Decision Guide

www.personalogic.com

Some may say that using computer technology to help figure out whom to vote for is a dangerous proposition, but hey, this is California—anything goes. Besides, PersonaLogic's California Politicians Decision Guide could very well be the wave of the future. Instead of trying to sort through the commercials and editorials and arguments, you type your particular preferences—what kind of leaders you like and where you stand on the issues—into the Decision Guide, and it will find which candidates most closely match your specifications. It is, indeed, tricky to condense such a complicated process into a quick database search, but it also eliminates the biases found in

other election resources. The computer doesn't have a political agenda; it's simply trying to match you up with an appropriate candidate on the basis of your picks. Once it chooses the top candidates, you can read more about their biography, their major endorsements, and their ballot statement, and follow links to additional information. This tool shouldn't take the place of an informed decision, but it can help you arrive at that informed decision come Election Day.

FasTV.com

www.fastv.com

During the interminable impeachment hearings, didn't you wish you could cut through the hours of footage to find the one or two moments that interested you—especially when they weren't the one or

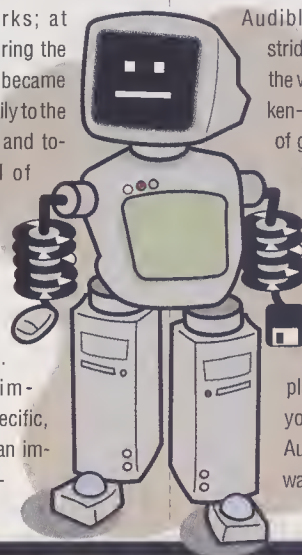
two moments the networks tirelessly pushed at you? The video-clip search engine FasTV.com allows you to do just that. At first, FasTV.com was a general archive that collected clips from CNN and other networks; at some point during the year, though, it became devoted primarily to the Clinton crisis, and toward the end of the year redesigned its front end to deal exclusively with the impeachment hearings. General or impeachment-specific, FasTV.com is an impressive tool—enter a search

phrase and the engine will pinpoint the exact spot in the video where the phrase occurs.

Audible

www.audible.com

Audible is taking great strides toward changing the way you listen to spoken-word audio. Instead of going to a store and picking up a book-on-tape, you can now peruse Audible's huge collection and download a digital file. Then you can play it right there on your desktop with the AudibleManager software (Windows only), or transfer it to the



MobilePlayer, a tiny Walkman-like machine (that will cost you a cool \$200). To make it even handier, you can customize the Audible-Manager to download the programs you want at a specified time, so if you don't feel like waiting around for the file to be transferred, you can set the software to take care of it automatically while you're out watering the lawn. Audible has worked with RealAudio to create these files, which, while not providing the CD-quality sound you'd like when listening to music, work well enough for reproducing the human voice. As an added bonus, many programs are compatible with the new MP3 players. And Audible's library has just about every audiobook recording you can think of, from novels to self-help manuals, famous speeches to business guides. Pick what you want and download the file in a matter of minutes—far easier than a trip to the store, and they're never out of stock.

Zabaware

www.zabaware.com

Voice-recognition software is still in the Dark Ages, but this Erie, Pennsylvania, company is hoping to push it into the light with its Ultra Hal software. Available as Windows-only freeware, Ultra Hal—named, presumably, for the talking computer in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*—uses voice-recognition technology to create a fully functional digital secretary. Ultra Hal can remember appointments and issue notification; learn and retrieve addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses; and even dial phone numbers directly. The program works reasonably well, especially if you use standard phrases, and the interface is simple. The only drawback to Ultra Hal is its logo, a goofy, googly-eyed computer face that

looks like a refugee from a failed children's show.

BullsEye

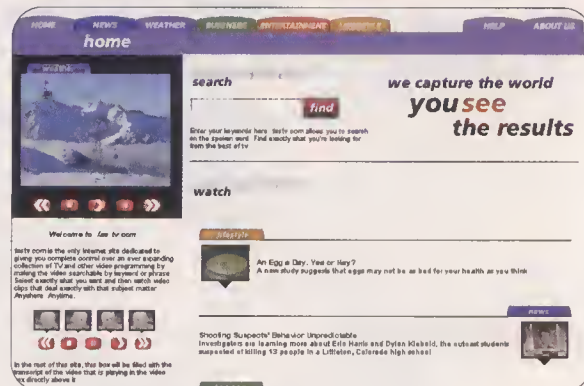
www.intelliseek.com/prod/products.htm

How many search engines and databases are there on the Net? At least 300 search engines and 600 databases, because that's how many BullsEye's customized intelligence agents monitor. With a clean, elegant interface called the BullsEye Manager and a variety of preprogrammed agents in such topics as Web content, news, people, books, software, business, education, and health, BullsEye is one of the Net's more comprehensive scrubbers (agents that specialize in pinpoint information retrieval). The standard version of BullsEye, which costs \$27, has a number of other convenient features—including a bookmark manager that translates favorite sites from Netscape Navigator to Microsoft Internet Explorer and vice versa. But users looking for full scrubber functionality will want to shell out the extra bucks for the professional version (\$112), which has a tracking utility that performs update searches and notifies you via desktop, e-mail, or pager.

WebVCR

www.netresultscorp.com

Most off-line browsing programs are doing a decent job, but every once in a while, you find a really great application like WebVCR. To make things easier, the program uses the VCR analogy: It allows you to "tape" Web sites, whether you're browsing them as you record, or whether you set it to record while you do other things. This can come in handy in several ways: It saves time, if you don't want to tie up your phone lines too long, and it also allows you to archive the contents of a site that might not be up forever. Also, it recognizes that sometimes you don't necessarily want the com-



Search for video clips at FastTV.com.

puter to conduct scheduled downloads but to simply "record" what you're browsing, as you browse. What's more, whereas other programs of this sort take some time to learn to use properly, WebVCR is remarkably straightforward, automatically dialing up your server, and even allowing you to set the VCR to tape your favorites. In no time, you'll find yourself taping all your favorite Web sites as if they were TV shows—in fact, if anything, WebVCR is a lot easier to use than most conventional VCRs.

Neuromedia Inc.

www.neurostudios.com

Neuromedia is a San Francisco-based company that designs and licenses "Virtual Representatives," or two-way chatterbots, for use by other companies. In such a capacity, the bot needs to know a lot about one specific topic—selling Fords, for instance, if it were employed by a Ford dealer site—and not much about the rest of the world. Neuromedia's bots can be easily programmed to be such tunnel-vision geniuses, and the site is demonstrating the company's products' high level of functionality by employing one of their own bots, called Shallow Red, as an automated tour guide. Shallow Red does not pretend to have great or unbounded versatility. It carries on simple conversations nicely, answering questions and responding

to comments, and the bot prefers to chat about Neuromedia's site and other bot-related matters. On the latter subject Red is quite a capable conversationalist, but in other areas it—not surprisingly—runs aground regularly. Nevertheless, when you try to trick the bot, you'll find that it (or its programmer) is sometimes smarter than it looks. (If you write, "Tell me a joke," the chatterbot will respond with "I don't know any jokes. The guys at netfunny.com do though. Here's one of theirs." It then connects you to the site.) On the other hand, there are quite a few canned responses: Ask about sports and Red will return boilerplate about Neuromedia ("I can tell you about bots and how you can use Neuromedia's products to make them"). Why does a sports question matter? Well, shouldn't every car salesman (or bot) be able to say "How 'bout them Knicks?" before they start pitching that \$20,000 product to you? Refining Shallow Red is an ongoing process and, interestingly, a collaborative effort—the company asks you to help improve its conversational skills through a rating system that allows visitors to indicate when responses are especially unintelligent, and you can also submit comments. Thus, Shallow Red is slowly opening its eyes to the things we humans can't help wanting to talk about: the weather, our team, ourselves.



No more training wheels and bedtime stories. Now the girls are old enough for rides like the Super-Duper and the Whipper Snapper. But no matter how big Jennifer and Melanie get, Mom and Dad will always keep them safe. That's why they drive a new Ford Windstar. It's the only minivan to earn a

five-star front crash test rating five years in a row.* ★★★★★ Looks like they own

one of the safest rides in the park.



*U.S. government data only useful in comparing vehicles within 500 pounds. **Always wear your safety belt and secure children in the rear seat.

New Ford Windstar

*New available side-impact airbags.***

New available Reverse Sensing System alerts driver to certain objects while backing up slowly.

New available dual remote power sliding doors. Available all-speed traction control.



To get all the facts and figures on Windstar, visit www.fordvehicles.com

WEB at WAR

A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE UNPRECEDENTED ROLE THE NET HAS PLAYED IN THE KOSOVO CONFLICT—AND ON WHAT THIS HAS MEANT FOR THE REFUGEES, THE CIVILIANS ON ALL SIDES, AND EVEN THE COMBATANTS

B Y B I L G E E B I R I

Ringed by mountains, the town of Gostivar, Macedonia, lies about 20 miles from the Yugoslav border. With a population of around 45,000, it's the kind of place where you can expect to see peasants riding horse-drawn carts down the main street. But with a circumstantial irony common in today's information-driven world, Gostivar is also home to the Association for Democratic Initiative (ADI), which maintains a massive database of Albanian refugees displaced by the war in Yugoslavia's neighboring province of Kosovo. "It's quite an amazing thing," says John West, the

Refugees gather in Tusilje after a six-mile flight to escape fighting in their hometown of Srbica, in Kosovo.





AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



Denouncing Milosevic, Turkish Albanians wave a poster that reads, "The vampire has returned to life."

London-based Webmaster who oversees the online version of the database, called **Find Kosovar Albanian Refugees in Macedonia** [www.refugjat.org]. "You go into this room, and there are about 20 schoolkids and their teachers busy keying in all the data we're getting from around the country."

The stated goal of the multiethnic ADI, which was formed in 1994 as a voter-education effort, is "building a civil society in Macedonia." To that end, its volunteers have lately been working around the clock to help establish first contact among Albanian refugees forced out of Kosovo by Slobodan Milosevic's campaign of ethnic cleansing. Through

the site, users from around the globe can search for refugees by name. If they have located someone in the real world, they can call ADI's 24-hour hot line, which receives 3,000 to 5,000 calls a day on its two phone lines.

"Our approximate success rate is about two out of 10," says Shpend Imeri, the president of ADI. "That means we have connected thousands and thousands of people until now, and our database is getting bigger and bigger." The International Committee of the Red Cross, which has been reuniting refugee families since the end of World War II, uses the database to follow up on reports of first contact.

By now, of course, the Net's role in the

war has become something of a news story itself. Countless articles and reports have pointed out that just as World War II had radio, Vietnam television, and the Gulf War live cable news, Kosovo has the Internet. Indeed, it has been the first major armed international conflict between two sides with a significant presence online. How significant? As of January 1998, there were 4,020 Web hosts operating in Yugoslavia. Although this nation of 11 million people is less wired than North America and Western Europe, it is significantly more so than much of the Middle East.

INSIDE THE ECHO CHAMBER

There's no denying that the NATO bombings, which began on March 24, made themselves felt immediately throughout the online world. Postings to mailing lists and newsgroups from users in Belgrade had a surreal immediacy to them. "When I looked outside, I saw great orange mushrooms growing over building roofs," remarked one resident of the Yugoslav capital. "I wonder what is on the menu for next night." Whether it was Serbian war criminal Zeljko "Arkan" Raznatovic answering questions in an MSNBC chat room, or newsgroups in which Serbs and Albanians regularly engage in flame wars, the Net has permitted forms of personal contact that would have been unimaginable during previous conflicts.

From the start, the war has had an electronic aspect to it. On the day the bombings began, the public Internet server that NATO operates [www.nato.int] was overloaded by spam e-mail and thousands of "ping" test signals, leading some to claim erroneously that it had been hacked. "We can't say who is really behind it," says Chris Scheurweghs, head of NATO's integrated data service. In May, after the NATO bombing of China's embassy in Belgrade, hackers "bombed" the **White House** Web site [www.whitehouse.gov] and crashed it. Days later, apparently pro-Chinese hackers went after the Web sites of the U.S. Interior and Energy departments. Though officials denied that any real damage was done, a new form of international conflict—war by hacking—was born.

The attempted hacks were only one kind of maneuver in the wired war. The Web site of **Voice of America** [www.ibb.gov], an arm of the U.S. State Department,

broadcast its Serbo-Croatian and Albanian services via live streaming audio. Articles on **CNN Interactive** [www.cnn.com] include links to the sites of the **Yugoslav Republic** [www.gov.yu], as well as to NATO's. At a time when major news networks' Belgrade correspondents often resort to filing reports by phone, the Web has even trumped TV: INET's **Belgrade Webcam** [www.inet.co.yu/kamera] features a live image of a Belgrade street, with the warning, "Don't ask for the location, we'll tell you nothing."

"It's the first time that the Internet—as a source of communications, as a source of opinion shaping, and hence as a source of policy making—has been used to such a degree," asserts Wolfgang Danspeckgruber, a foreign-policy expert who heads Princeton University's Liechtenstein Research Program on Self-Determination. "Originally, the news media had a certain exclusiveness on the ability to influence opinion. What we have today is a second-track opening, which is uncensored, which allows those who have an interest in the region to have an independent source of information. In many instances, I have been in the situation where I knew a couple of days in advance what eventually appeared in *The New York Times*."

EARLY WARNING SIGNS

The Net provided many early warning signals of the Kosovo crisis. "People knew that something was going to happen in Kosovo for quite a long time," says Cathy Gormley, a research officer for the Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity, known as **INCORE** [www.incore.ulst.ac.uk]. Based in Northern Ireland, Gormley monitors conflicts around the world to determine which ones may escalate. "I was aware of it about 18 months ago," she recalls, "through discussion lists and things people were saying—students, academics, logging on and saying, 'Help us.' It was public knowledge to those who wanted to know about it. But the general public wasn't aware of how serious things actually were until just a few months ago."

Now, with the Milosevic regime barring Western journalists from Kosovo, world news organizations are relying more and more on updates from ground-level human-rights groups, many of which are

TRACKING THE CONFLICT

A GUIDE TO THE MOST IMPORTANT SITES IN THE KOSOVO CONFLICT



OneWorld www.oneworld.org

This umbrella site tracks human-rights news and provides links to more than 350 organizations around the globe.

Find Kosovar Albanian Refugees in Macedonia www.refugjat.org

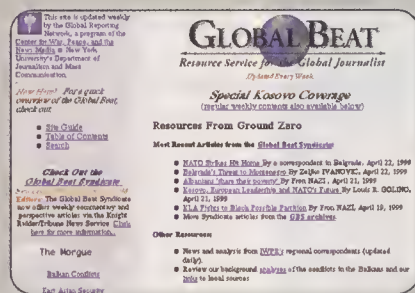
The online version of the Association for Democratic Initiative's database allows friends and members of the Albanian diaspora to locate one another.

NATO www.nato.int

The official Web site of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization features numerous press releases concerning the Kosovo crisis.

Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org

The Web site of the international human-rights organization has many volunteers throughout Yugoslavia. Its Human Rights Flashes are an invaluable source of independent news for other troubled countries around the world, as well.



Global Beat www.nyu.edu/globalbeat

An independent "resource service for the global journalist," this site gathers numerous reports from the ground in and around Kosovo and Serbia.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Official Web Site www.gov.yu

The Yugoslav government's Web site features its official account of the conflict in Kosovo, along with excerpts from the nation's constitution.

War Against Yugoslavia

www.inet.co.yu/kamera

The Webcam is only one part of this Yugoslav site, which features continuous updates (sometimes minute by minute) about what's happening in Serbia, complete with anti-NATO news items.

INCORE www.incore.ulst.ac.uk

Based in Northern Ireland, the Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity tracks the world's hot spots.

Voice of America www.ibb.gov

An arm of the U.S. State Department, VOA broadcast its Serbo-Croatian and Albanian services via live streaming audio.



Anonymizer.com's Kosovo Privacy Project

info.anonymizer.com/kosovo.shtml

This site, which Anonymizer.com maintains, features many links that enable users to send unmonitored e-mail and surf the Web anonymously, away from the eyes of prying governments.

Radio B92 www.b92.net

Serbian authorities closed down the Web site of this independent Belgrade news radio station soon after NATO's attacks began. Even though the station is no longer broadcasting, its site remains a fascinating piece of recent history.

Amnesty International USA

www.amnestyusa.org

This site offers extensive coverage of and commentary on human-rights issues in the Balkans.

Center for Information Strategy and Policy

www.cisp.org

CISP is a Washington, D.C.—area think tank devoted to information issues.

Serbia Now! Online News www.sn-ol.com/news

As an independent news and analysis site, Serbia Now! doesn't shrink from criticizing both NATO air strikes and the government of Slobodan Milosevic.

making themselves heard over the Net. The international organization **Human Rights Watch** [www.hrw.org], for example, has been e-mailing bulletins since the conflict erupted, and both ordinary citizens and journalists are taking notice. "The Kosovo e-mail news flashes are completely oversubscribed," says Minky Worden, the organization's electronic-media director. "And our messages show that it is journalists who are using them,

as well as the public. This may be because all the journalists were kicked out of Kosovo, and there are no longer any credible, independent sources of confirmation." Human Rights Watch recently changed the course of at least one major story: After NATO announced the death of Baton Haxhiu, a prominent Kosovar journalist, Haxhiu called Human Rights Watch to debunk the report.

For other organizations, even for those that have journalists near the war zone, the Net can be a vital tool for organizing raw data. *The New York Times* is in the process of creating its own database of atrocity reports, because, as *Times* reporter David Rosenbaum puts it, "there's no clearinghouse; there's no central repository of everything." Though Rosenbaum says he believes that it's too early to fully gauge the usefulness of the Net, he notes that he has personally subscribed to at least 30 Kosovo-related mailing lists.

"I've been a reporter for a long time, and I've never seen anything like this before," he says. "It's the first time that I've ever found reams of potentially useful information on the Net. I use it all the time to look up one specific thing. But this is the first time I've ever used it as a shotgun rather than as a rifle shot."

The Net is also helping to give voice to those within the conflict, adds NATO's Scheurweghs. "It's being used to a certain extent as a communication network



Not far from the Kosovar capital of Pristina, an ethnic Albanian surveys the damage to his neighborhood after an offensive by Serbian forces.

TIME LINE

MARCH 24, 1999 » NATO begins bombing Kosovo and Serbia. Within hours, authorities ban Radio B92 in Belgrade, confiscate its transmission equipment, and detain editor in chief Veran Matic for eight hours. The station continues its broadcasts over the Web. NATO's public Internet server is overloaded after being bombarded with spam and "ping" test signals; much of this activity is traced back to phone companies in Belgrade.

MARCH 25 » Human Rights Watch begins issuing its Kosovo Human Rights Flashes, both through its Web site and via e-mail.

MARCH 30 » Notorious Serb paramilitary leader Arkan chats on MSNBC, saying, "We are fighting for peace and love, we are not fighting for war." The next day, the international war crimes tribunal indicts him.

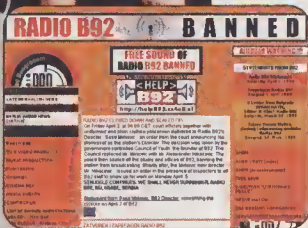
APRIL 2 » Serb officials close down and seal Radio B92's offices, put a new director in charge, and halt the station's Web broadcasts.

APRIL 3 » The Rev. Sava Jajic, the "cybermonk" who had been sending daily e-mails preaching reconciliation, as well as independent news reports, is reported to have left his monastery in Kosovo.

APRIL 13 » OneWorld.org launches ADI's searchable database of Kosovar refugees.



B92's Veran Matic, center, speaks to the press shortly after the station was shut down.



within the area itself," he explains. "In the beginning, we got a lot of e-mails, even out of Serbia, from people who were supporting us." Furthermore, he says that beyond the war zone, NATO is using the Net more and more: "We have a network of contacts with Webmasters and other levels, with the United Nations, the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees], and we exchange a lot of information."

E-mail has also allowed other organizations, including **ABCNews.com** [abcnews.go.com], to directly cover the reactions of ordinary Serbians to the bombings. Some believe that these accounts may lead to the creation of a new class of reporters in Yugoslavia. "These are not journalistic reports," says Drazen Pantic, the founder of OpenNet, the first Internet service provider in Serbia. "They're personal things, like diaries. But some of these people are becoming journalists in the process. It's like sending out messages in a bottle, and some have seen that this is not enough. They want to send actual reports."

RADIO FREE BELGRADE

But just because news is filtering out of Yugoslavia by way *continued on page 142*

the  shabang! SM

\$1,000,000

S H O P P I N G E - S P R E E

You can't win if you don't register. For more info, go to www.shabang.com/million



www.shabang.com SM
personal shopping community

OLDWAY

BY DAVID SHEFF



NETWAY

Comparing the Tried-and-True with the Net-and-New

[KEEPING THE DOG WELL-FED]

OLD WAY

- 1 It was time to stock up on dog food—Nutra Adult Maintenance, to be exact.
- 2 Checked the local feed store. A 40-pound bag there costs \$24.99.
- 3 Tried a Petco superstore, where the price for the same amount was slightly higher: \$26.99.

Total time elapsed

Four minutes calling, a half hour shopping

Comments

Our local store was convenient and had the best price.

WINNER

Old Way

NET WAY

- 1 Searched for *pet supplies* and tried all of the places listed. They had toys and dog beds, but no dog food.
- 2 Searched specifically for *dog food* and found the cool **DOG FOOD COMPARISON CHART** [www.aloha.com/~wolfepack/food.html], but no online purveyor of dog food. Even Petco's site [www.petco.com] had no way to order online.

Total time elapsed

30 minutes trying to find dog food online—without any luck

Comments

Anyone out there looking to start an Internet business?



[BUYING A WEDDING GIFT]

OLD WAY

- 1 The daughter of a friend got married recently, and my wife and I wanted to send a nice wedding present. Headed downtown.
- 2 The bride had registered at Saks, Williams-Sonoma, and Macy's, so we went to those stores. In each, we were able to see what the couple had asked for and what they had received.
- 3 Unable to decide, and overwhelmed by the choices (and the crowds), we fled.

Total time elapsed
Including parking and shopping,
2½ hours

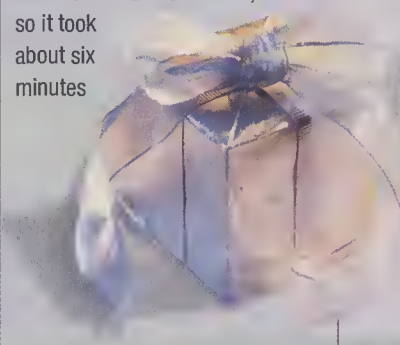
Comments
We didn't buy a present, though we could have.

NET WAY

- 1 Tried the Web, which was a revelation. Our friend's daughter was registered at **MACY'S: THE BRIDAL & GIFT REGISTRY** [www.macysbridal.com]. She wanted a great-looking teakettle: the Calphalon two-quart whistler.
- 2 Filled out the online forms, including a message to the bride and groom, and sent the gift.
- 3 When it arrived, they called—thrilled.

Total time elapsed
We knew what we wanted, so it took about six minutes

Comments
No crowds, no cars, no parking.



WINNER

Net Way

[DISCOVERING THE VALUE OF A DOLLAR]

OLD WAY

- 1 For an article, I needed to figure out the 1960 equivalent of \$1 billion. I hit the library and looked for reference books that might provide the formula to do the calculations.
- 2 When I struck out, I asked the reference librarian at the business desk for help. She suggested a few books, which I pored through. No luck.
- 3 Called the economics departments at two universities. A Stanford assistant professor said he could get the information. He called back with the answer: "about \$200 million."



Total time elapsed
3½ hours

Comments
There may be a more direct source at the library, but even with help I couldn't find it.

NET WAY

- 1 Searched the Net for *adjust for inflation* and came up with several hundred choices. Tried a few and found that they weren't quite what I needed.
- 2 But then a click led me to the **INFLATION CALCULATOR** [www.westegg.com/inflation], which asked me to fill in a simple form with the amount and the years to compare. In response, I was told, "In 1960, \$1,000,000,000 from 1998 was worth \$182,865,061.21."

Total time elapsed
12 minutes surfing and less than a minute for the answer

Comments
Got a more precise answer in a split second.

WINNER

Net Way



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A NEWLYWED TO
CIRCLE THE GLOBE ON AN ADVENTURE
THAT BEGINS AT HOME—ON THE NET >>



I'm getting married in September, and when people ask what we're doing for our honeymoon, I love telling them we're going around the world. So after choosing a caterer for our wedding, my fiancé and I decided it was time to start actually planning our trip. For a week or so, we stopped watching late-night television and plopped ourselves down in front of the computer. And even though my husband-to-be isn't as Net-savvy as I am, arranging the honeymoon is supposed to be the man's job. So I let him do all the typing.

If you go to **Yahoo!** [www.yahoo.com] and type in *around the world travel*, one of the first links that pops up is the **Round-the-World Travel Guide** [www.travel-library.com/rtw/html]. Sometimes, the best place to start is the most obvious. This terrific overview of an extended global trip

BY DINA GAN ○ ILLUSTRATION BY GREEN & READ

was written by American wanderer Marc Brosius, who visited 15 countries in 29 months—and spent only \$17,000! Aside from general information on destinations, weather, and transportation, Brosius provides detailed, practical advice, including lists of what to pack, and budgeting work sheets to figure out how long you can afford to be away.

After absorbing all this information, we sketched our initial plan. We would cover five countries in 90 days: two weeks in France (I'd always wanted to go to Paris), a month in China, a month in India, and seven days each in Israel and the Philippines (to pay homage to our respective heritages). We figured we would allow ourselves up to \$10,000 for airfare and lodging. Budget travelers could spend far less on a similar trip, but I had a rule about accommodations: no youth hostels. This would be our honeymoon, after all.

BOOKING FLIGHTS

>> Because multideestination trips are so complicated, we quickly discovered that the big travel hubs like **MSN Expedia Travel** [www.expedia.com] and **Travelocity.com** [www.travelocity.com] just weren't going to cut it. Discount-airfare consolidators that specialize in around-the-world travel proved to be a better bet.

High Adventure Travel [www.highadv.com] has a search engine for finding preplanned around-the-world itineraries (known to insiders as RTW routes). We entered *Paris, Beijing, Bombay* and got a \$2,400 fare out of New York that goes to all three cities, as well as to a few other stops in Asia. The price sounded good, but the itinerary wasn't precisely what we wanted, so we tried the site's Fare Builder do-it-yourself tool. It was fun for a while, but pretty soon we were swimming in complicated geographical strategizing: What's the cheapest way to get from Paris to Beijing or Beijing to Bombay? Do we really need to fly through Hong Kong twice? After we cobbled together and submitted a labyrinthine route, we got back an estimate of \$3,831. The site's fine print says that if you feel you

haven't created the most cost-effective routing for your trip, you should contact the company by phone.

We called High Adventure. The sales rep revealed that all the prices quoted online are low-season rates and represent only about 15 percent of the available routes. She also said that February was far too early to get the best fall fares through High Adventure, which often offers last-minute deals. Although this may be a great option for spur-of-the-moment global travelers, I didn't want to plan my honeymoon at the eleventh hour. We soldiered on.

The supercheap sample itineraries at **Netfare.net** [www.netfare.net], another discount RTW specialist, piqued our interest. To check how representative the fares were, we followed up by phone, and the travel agent told us he could arrange our trip for about \$1,599 per person—assuming that we went overland from Hong Kong to Beijing, added a stop in Bangkok, and dropped either Israel or India from the trip. We chose to forgo the latter country, resolving to do the India/Nepal loop on our first anniversary, and scaled back our honeymoon to a more realistic two months.

Neither High Adventure nor Netfare.net lets you book flights online. But unless you majored in geography or worked a stint as an air-traffic controller, it's probably better to let a human agent plan the most efficient RTW route. Because our trip was pieced together from discount fares, we couldn't change destinations without incurring heavy penalties, though we could change dates and flight times for free by contacting the airlines directly.

BOOKING HOTELS

>> The Netfare.net guy said that he could also book our rooms, but that they would run about \$125 a night. He suggested that we would do better researching hotels ourselves. My fiancé, who once spent six months backpacking across Europe, said we should just "wing it." My answer? "No way." I wanted to see maps, rate information,

and pictures of hotel rooms. I even wanted to see what the bathrooms looked like, if that was possible.

Back to the Net for an exhaustive hotel search.

We knew Paris would be pricey, but we also wanted it to be special, so we planned to spend a few nights in a luxury French hotel before moving on to cheaper digs. The **Paris Hotel Guide** [www.france.com/travel/hotels/PHG.html] features a great selection, from small pensions at \$48 per night to a stylish two-star for just \$99 per night to a four-star Parisian palace for less than \$250 per night. The site provides pictures of rooms or window views for each hotel listed, and you can check availability and make reservations online. Another option we considered is short-term apartment rental. **Locafat Paris** [www.locafat.com] offers charming studios for as little as \$640 a week; listings include pictures of every room—even the kitchen and bathroom.

The hotel planning sailed along. We knew we'd be staying with family friends in Jerusalem, but as a backup, we bookmarked **Israel's Hotel Center** [www.inisrael.com/hotels]. This site provides listings for all major Israeli cities and posts some good Hot Deals, such as a double at the Sheraton Jerusalem for \$95 per night. For our Bangkok stop, **Thaiway.com** [www.thaiway.com] offered plenty of affordable options, including a river-view room in a four-star hotel for about \$78 per night. You have to trust the site's description of the view, because not all of the rooms are pictured, but you can make reservations online. In the Philippines, we picked the resort island of **Palawan** [www.palawan.net]. There we found beachfront cottages for as little as \$20 per night (mosquito netting included).

China was a little trickier. We learned from the *rec.travel.asia* newsgroup that tourists who just show up at a hotel in China tend to get gouged. One of our newsgroup e-pals sent us to **China Custom Tours** [www.xintours.com], which offers individual travel planning via e-mail. The company's New York office was close to our apartment, so


we decided to go in person to discuss our itinerary with an agent. A few days after our appointment, she e-mailed us a detailed plan for the 12 cities in China we wanted to visit, including Hong Kong. The total cost for first-class lodging, privately escorted tours with English-speaking guides, and all in-country air and land travel worked out to less than \$100 a day per person. Budget travelers could spend much less by taking buses or "hard-seat" trains instead of airplanes, and by opting for group instead of private tours.

China International Travel Service [www.citsusa.com] and **Hotels in China** [www.cbw.com/hotel] were useful sites for previewing hotels and tours, and both sites let you submit reservations by e-mail. Especially helpful for do-it-yourselfers is the **Hong Kong Tourist Association** [www.hkta.org], which has a Package Tour Finder that is searchable by budget, beginning under \$1,000. But you'll have to call an 800-number to book hotels.

STAYING WIRED

>> My **Hotmail** [www.hotmail.com] account lets me check e-mail from anywhere in the world, provided I can find a place to log on. The **Internet Café Guide** [www.netcafeguide.com] lists more than 2,150 cybercafés in 113 countries. We were pleased to learn that there are 74 in France, four in Israel, 29 in Thailand, 39 in the Philippines, 11 in Hong Kong, and 22 in China. (There's actually a Kinko's in Beijing!) **Technotravel: How to Access the Internet While Traveling** [pobox.com/~technotravel] is a handy guide.

HURRY UP & WAIT

>> Thanks to the Net, our honeymoon around the world wasn't a pain to plan. Nor did it hurt our bank account; the cost of our two-month trip for two came out to just \$7,500 for airfare and hotels. Now we're counting the days until September. Meanwhile, we're using **Foreign Languages for Travelers** [www.travlang.com/languages] to learn how to say "Where is the bathroom?" in five different languages. 

CIRCLING THE MILLENNIUM

So, where are you planning to party like it's 1999? How about a foreign country where nobody has ever heard of the Artist Formerly Known as Prince? Follow the links below to some of the more unique movable feasts planned for the millennium. If your mode of transportation is fast enough—and your wallet fat enough—you may even get to celebrate the new year more than once!



Dawn of a New Millennium

Looking for a really exotic place to spend New Year's Eve? Wilderness Travel has about two dozen tours scheduled for the end of December through January. Hike along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu or go sea kayaking in

Tierra del Fuego. Cost: Varies by destination and number of members in tour group; ranges from \$1,795 to \$4,995, excluding airfare.

www.wildernesstravel.com/millenn.htm

Millennium Trips

Mountain Travel-Sobek offers even more exotic ways to spend the end of the year. Trek through Marrakech on a camel, raft the headwaters of the Amazon, or experience polar life in Antarctica. Cost: Starts at \$1,500.

www.mtsobek.com/MTS_NAV/mill_frm.htm

Odyssey 2000

If getting in shape is going to be one of your New Year's resolutions for the year 2000, here's a surefire way to do it and see the world at the same time. Tim Kneeland & Associates, a North American bicycle trek organizer, is offering a 366-day tour on wheels, starting on January 1, 2000. Originating and ending in Los Angeles, the tour will have you cycling through 45 countries, covering a total of 20,000 miles. Cost: \$36,000 (including meals, accommodations, and bikes).

www.kneeland.com

Around the World by Private Concorde

Imagine flying the friendly skies at Mach 2 with 95 other people in your own private jet and touching down in Hong Kong for the New Year. This 18-day tour departs from New York on December 24, 1999, and makes stops in Sydney, Hong Kong, Delhi, and Cairo, as well as in the Hawaiian Islands and at the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. Cost: \$75,000.

www.intrav.com/millen.htm

Millennium II Air France Concorde Charter Tour

Can't decide where you want to be when the clock strikes 12:00 on New Year's Eve? You can celebrate twice with this 11-day tour, arranged by Air France and Concorde Spirit Tours. First, ring in the year 2000 in Paris, then travel "backward in time" and arrive in New York, where you will be escorted to Times Square to ring in the New Year again. Afterward, continue on around the globe with stops in Hawaii and Mexico. Cost: \$39,800.

www.emcoinc.com/travel/html/Milen/Concorde.htm

Yahoo! Internet Life's
★ Gold Star Sites:

Sports

»» THIS MONTH WE TEST AND ASSESS THE INTERNET'S LEADING SPORTS SITES



By Bilge Ebiri // ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN NORTHEAST

By now, it's a truism that sports is the perfect genre for the Net. Highlight reels come ready-made for Web consumption; hyperlinks are God's gift to player stats; fans fill every conceivable forum with opinions; and the relentless scoring frenzy of a Lakers-76ers game gives new meaning to the expression "rapidly developing story." Wherever you want to go today, chances are it'll have a sports ticker with the latest Cubs score, and the sheer number of options can stymie even die-hard fans. Lots of baseball sites offer pretty pictures and timely coverage, but will they provide you with the stats you need to run your fantasy league? Will overlooking one football site deprive you of the chance to ask your favorite overpaid rookie quarterback why he's been throwing all those interceptions? And just where, exactly, does one get the latest scores from the Turkish soccer leagues? That's where we come in. We pitted the major sports hubs against one another in a supersite Super Bowl; some of these contenders

went on to nab the title for a specific sport. Whatever it is you're looking for—a particular league, insightful writing, or action-packed clips—we've cut the scrubs, matched up the opponents, and found the most valuable players.

And the Winners Are...

BEST SPORTS HUB

ESPN.COM

[www.espn.go.com]

It's a close one, as always. Why does ESPN.com come out on top? For starters, it provides thorough, well-written coverage of just about every sport out there, and it's fast. Stats, live updates, in-depth analysis, audio, and video are all here under one roof, as you'd expect from a major hub. But it's the ongoing dialogue with fans—a key component of sports on the Web—that sets ESPN.com apart. From the army of analysts and athletes who hold forth in open fo-

runs during the NFL draft to the NBA scoring leader who drops by to answer fans' questions, interactivity is the site's strong suit. What makes ESPN.com's win even more impressive is that we judged it solely on what it gives you for free. (The only major hub with fee-based content, it also offers such luxury options as sortable stats for \$39.95/year or \$4.95/month.) Perennial rival CBS SportsLine [cbs.sportsline.com] earns honorable mention for its well-organized stats and outstanding multimedia updates of games.

BEST OFFICIAL LEAGUE SITE

NBA.COM

[www.nba.com]

With its flashy highlights, flamboyant players, and breakneck speed, pro basketball



seems perfect for cyberspace. NBA.com proves it, with live scoreboards, breaking-news updates, and exclusive player chats that cover the entire NBA roster, from the basement to

the champs. Whether it's the Los Angeles Lakers or the Los Angeles Clippers, each league lineup has its own team "theater" page with extensive video highlights of its games. Among the close contenders, NFL.com [www.nfl.com] wins points for its impressive in-season chats with players and coaches.

BEST BASEBALL SITE

FASTBALL

[www.fastball.com]

If baseball's your game, then Fastball's your site. Packed to the gills with obsessive detail, it's the kind of site every sport wishes it

Report Card: Grading the Major Sports Hubs

THE BASICS	COVERAGE	INTERACTIVITY	MULTIMEDIA	STATISTICS	SPEED	OVERALL
ESPN.COM www.espn.go.com	Extremely thorough and well written; most areas available even to non-subscribers for free A	Regular chats with deep reservoir of ESPN analysts, plus easy access to official league sites A+	Watch/listen to live ESPN programs; video clips kept to a nonintrusive, tasteful minimum B+	Navigating the excellent stats could be easier, and you will need to pay for sortable stats B+	Last year's streamlining has made entire site faster to load, though the live gamecasts can lag a bit A-	A
CBS SPORTSLINE www.sportsline.com	Not as in-depth as it could be, but features easy-to-navigate team pages B+	Multiple topics covered in fan chat rooms—and there's a hefty dose of celebrities, too B+	Live animated versions of games, acres of clips, multimedia breakdowns—a gold mine A+	Prodigious links, detailed statistics, and more free info than ESPN A	Nifty graphics and numerous links sometimes take their toll, but live scores update quickly B+	A-
CNN/SI www.cnn.com	Fast and thorough, with lots of international coverage; <i>Sports Illustrated's</i> writers a major plus A-	Great message boards, lackluster chat guests B-	Lots of clips, all in one convenient location, and they're never a substitute for actual coverage B+	Allows multiple ways of sorting; detailed numbers A	Like we said, it's fast. The quickest live-scoring updates of the major sports hubs A	B+
THE SPORTING NEWS www.tsn.com	Hard to beat for good writing, but team reports updated only twice a week, at best A-	Chat rooms only, and no real interaction with columnists C-	What is this <i>multimedia</i> of which you speak? Nice pictures, though F	Informative stat pages are hard to reach B-	Minimal images make entire site easier to load, but live scoreboards are nothing to get excited about B	C+
FOX SPORTS www.foxsports.com	Decent writing, extensive reporting helped by Fox's global presence B	Uh, does sending a letter to the editor count? F	Lots of video highlights, but they are intrusive and slow pages down B	Detailed statistics and well-organized team matchups require a bit of navigating B+	Media and banners and frames—oh, my! With all this chaff, no wonder it slows to a crawl C-	C

How we rated the sites: We evaluated the free-content areas on the major sports hubs during April 1999; grades do not reflect new features or upgrades that may have been added since that time. ESPN.com also offers fee-based content (\$39.95/year, \$4.95/month).

had. Why? In addition to good stats and up-to-the-minute coverage, Fastball has a great sense of humor; check out Casey Stengel's quotes in the Foul Pole section. ("Everybody line up alphabetically according to your height.") Or the All-Body Parts team, which includes Elroy Face, Greg Legg, and Ollie Beard. You'll also find a stellar fantasy baseball area (see "A Closer Look," right), and plenty of spots to vent in live chat rooms. Of course, it's technically impossible to appreciate baseball without knowing its storied past. **Total Baseball Online** [www.totalbaseball.com] offers an excellent section devoted to the sport's history (thanks to some very diligent writers), and also the *Official Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball*, for you to order.

BEST BASKETBALL SITE

ESPN.COM NBA

[espn.go.com/nba]

If NBA.com is so great, then why does ESPN.com have the better basketball site? First of all, the hub's hoops coverage surpasses its competitors' thanks to faster-loading pages studded with speedy links. Second, ESPN.com has affiliated itself with NBA.com, and links directly to reports on the official league site. As a major hub, it also offers access to NCAA news and scores that NBA.com doesn't provide. And ESPN.com's famed battalion of analysts pays painstaking attention to every aspect of the game. If it affects the NBA, it's here.

BEST FOOTBALL SITE

CBS SPORTSLINE NFL

[cbs.sportsline.com/nfl]

Besides offering generally excellent gridiron coverage, CBS SportsLine has the best multimedia in the field, along with streamlined pages of stats that load up painlessly. But the standout feature here is a live animated version of ongoing NFL games, which allows you to follow the action from your desktop. It might not compare to the real thing, but in a sport that suffers from long periods without scoring, it sure beats sitting there waiting for the numbers to change.

BEST HOCKEY SITE

NHL.COM

[www.nhl.com]

If you want to see video footage of Eric Lindros's latest game-winning goal, or get breaking news about injuries, sus-

A Closer Look: Fantasy Leagues

You can go online year-round to check out news and rumors about every professional sport. But fantasy leagues follow the seasons of their real-life counterparts, and baseball predominates when summer rolls around. While most baseball "rotisseries" (as fantasy leagues are also known) hold their drafts in March during spring training, it's not too late even now if you aspire to play George Steinbrenner. A number of sites let users jump in throughout the season to take advantage of rookie sensations (who will be this year's Kerry Wood?) and surprising comebacks (like Jose Canseco's in 1998). And, as a bonus, most of them are free.

ESPN.com Fantasy Games [games.espn.go.com]

is like an amusement park: Everywhere you turn, there's another ride you want to go on, from

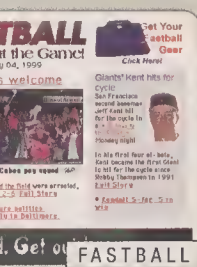
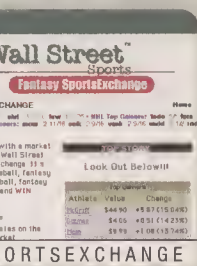
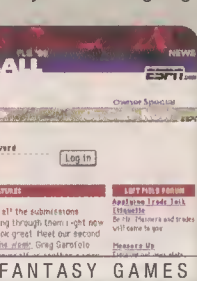
NASCAR racing to fantasy golf. ESPN's full-season baseball game should be avoided this late in the year; it's not worth the \$29.95 fee to play catch-up with other "owners" who may already be 100 home runs ahead. But try the free Baseball Challenge, which has weekly prizes. You'll have to juggle your player salaries, but there are always late-season surprises that even the odds.

USA Today Wall Street Sports hosts one of the most innovative free games we've seen, **Fantasy Sports-Exchange** [usatoday.wallstreetsports.com]. Trade your favorite athletes from all of the pro leagues, as well as col-

lege sports, on the "stock market," and win a chance at monthly prizes. Since athlete prices change in real time, registered users should check in every so often to update their portfolio. Buy McGwire or Griffey, and watch your stock rise as theirs does—or, conversely, slip, if you happen to own shares of, say, Darryl Strawberry.

Yahoo! Sports Fantasy Baseball [fantasy.yahoo.com/baseball] touts that age-old consumer favorite: free service. Visitors can check out a sam-

ple league that demonstrates the features of the game, and return at any point in the season either to join an existing league or to create their own—



all without spending a dime. Once you set up your fantasy page, the latest baseball headlines and scores appear in the sidebars, which connect to the rest of the Yahoo! sports universe.

If you have already established your own league, you can streamline your operation at **Fastball** [www.fastball.com], our Gold Star winner for Best Baseball Site (see page 113). Register for the site's **Free Commissioner Services 1999** [rotonews.com/specials/fastball/index.htm] to get updated daily stats and transaction reports, as well as a team Web page, bul-

letin boards, and more. In partnership with **Sandbox.net** [www.sandbox.net], Fastball also offers Sandlot Fantasy Baseball, a free, full-fantasy game that lets you call the shots as owner, GM, and manager. And there's another good freebie on the Sandbox home page: Heavy Hitters, which houses 250 of the best sluggers in baseball. Create your very own field of dreams by selecting an elite eight-man batting order with a fixed salary cap, then compete for weekly prizes as your lineup faces a series of fantasy pitchers. —Jeffrey Cohen



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ADR™

★ Gold Star Sites:SPORTS

pensions, and transactions, NHL.com is the place to go. You'll also find extensive weekly coverage of the minor leagues, links to all the official team pages, and live game cybercasts—an invaluable service for anybody following a favorite team away from home.

BEST SOCCER SITE THE DAILY SOCCER (INTERNATIONAL)

[www.dailysoccer.com]

SOCCER TIMES (U.S.)

[www.soccertimes.com]

Fans in faraway countries visit the Daily Soccer religiously for news about regular-season matches and international competitions. Although the bulk of the reportage on the site leans toward the major European leagues, what distinguishes the Daily Soccer is its huge page of headlines from around the world, with reports about and results for everything from the Turkish leagues to the African Youth Championships. On this side of the Atlantic, Soccer Times is the Web's best source of information, with quality coverage of American professional and college leagues, as well as international tournaments.

BEST TENNIS SITE TENNIS.COM

[www.tennis.com]

Although *Tennis* magazine is a monthly publication, its Web site keeps you current with tennis news through a page of wire reports. Whether it's the latest on a top-seeded player's injury or her rocky love life, chances are you'll find it here. And chances are that if you follow tennis, you play the game as well. At Tennis.com, you can enter your personal statistics and receive advice on improving your form, or review the latest in equipment. There's also a great player-match service that helps you find potential partners and opponents in your area.

BEST AUTO-RACING SITE THE AUTO CHANNEL

[www.autochannel.com]

What's auto racing without the highlights? With up-to-the-minute reports coming in continuously on its Motorsports Wire, and an incredible array of streaming video at your fingertips, the Auto Channel should be at the top of any racing enthusiast's list of favorites. It's extremely well organized: You can search by driver name, circuit, and track. And because it's not just a racing site, there's plenty of room for such extras as fantastic video archives for the auto enthusiast. View factory footage of Chevy's latest models, and check out industry shows. Or put the

BEST GOLF SITE GOLF ONLINE.COM

[www.golfonline.com]

If you're looking for the latest standings in the PGA Tour, or want to work on your own game, you'll hit a hole in one at Golf Online.com, produced by *Golf Magazine*. Beyond providing in-depth coverage of professional golf, this supersite lets you explore the world's best courses, or find a resort recommendation for your next links vacation. Want to improve your swing? Just head to Hole 2 for cogent instruction, or visit the helpful Private Lessons area, where you can get a personalized online profile that may help shave points off your score.

BEST WOMEN'S SPORTS SITE SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR WOMEN

[www.siforwomen.com]

With a powerhouse like CNN/SI behind it, it's no wonder *SI for Women* has so much to offer. There's detailed coverage of the WNBA and other professional and amateur women's leagues, along with lively forums and helpful features like Ask Dr. Dot, which

answers fitness and health questions. Great writing and incisive analysis make this well-designed site a must for those who are following women's sports or playing them.

BEST SPORTS-RUMOR SITE RUMOR CITY

[www.rumorcity.com]

Rumor City takes on the daunting challenge of reporting trade rumors and other insider news from almost every major sport. Though you may get more details on a sport-specific site (say, *The Hockey Report* [home.11.net/~antmba/geo.htm] for NHL dish) Rumor City manages to cover all the bases, from the trade roller coaster of an NFL star to news that a top Brazilian soccer player is unhappy on his European team.



pedal to the metal and take in adrenaline-soaked drag-racing cybercasts.

BEST COLLEGE-SPORTS SITE COLLEGE SPORTS NEWS DAILY

[chili.collegesportsnews.com]

Anyone who regularly follows college sports knows that no big general-sports hub can truly do justice to the campus beat. For fans of Duke basketball or Fresno State volleyball, College Sports News Daily covers its turf thoroughly and efficiently. Although you won't find the kind of multimedia eye candy that hypnotizes users at the flashy pro sites, there is plenty here to keep even the busiest of college sports fans glued to their monitors.



CASINO
GALAXY
www.casinogalaxy.com

Miss CASINO GALAXY

Casino Galaxy announces the Miss Casino Galaxy 2000 contest open to women, worldwide, between the ages of 18 and 32.

The winner receives \$10,000 in U.S. dollars and a one-year spokes model contract representing Casino Galaxy – the hottest new gaming site on the Internet.

Casino Galaxy will announce two semi-finalist, chosen by online voting, every five weeks beginning March 22 through August 31. All six semi-finalists will take part in the special international grand opening ceremonies for Casino Galaxy on September 6, 1999, when Miss Casino Galaxy will be crowned.

Visit Casino Galaxy's website at www.casinogalaxy.com for complete contest rules. E-mail two photos of yourself along with a completed application (available online).

www.casinogalaxy.com

Your Internet Gaming Destination

Miss
Casino Galaxy
1999

Casino Galaxy is a Cook Island Corporation.

Site- reviews

Each month we send experts in various fields to seek out the best the Web has to offer. But first, a quick look at what's hot this month

new notable & fun!

RE.LAUNCH

SALON.COM. The literate Webzine, which made an impact with its coverage of the Clinton scandal, branches out into an entire network by dividing its content into such categories as Books and Mothers Who Think. It also gets the visual makeover its name has always suggested. www.salon.com

DISNEY.COM. In an effort to become *the* most magical place online, this giant behemoth now incorporates its subscription service, Club Blast (formerly Disney's Blast Online), and links to more than 25 Disney sites and services. www.disney.com

AMAZON.COM AUCTIONS. Our next item is a pretty little site straight out of Seattle,

where the owner found it in his garage. Can you believe it? The site now offers online auctions, and bidding begins at the URL below. Do we have a buyer? auctions.amazon.com

IT'S ENTERTAINMENT

JOKES.COM. Blondes. Rednecks. Mothers-in-law. If the one-liners at this site seem stale, just cut, paste, and forward them. What enemy wouldn't cry at the sight of another Helen Keller joke? www.jokes.com

FX. The cable channel responsible for rerunning *The X-Files* (yes!) and creating *Bobcat's Big Ass Show* (no!) revamps its Web site, providing more content about network stars (such as magicians Penn and Teller) and series (including

Instant Comedy with the Groundlings). www.fxnetworks.com

BACKSTAGE PASS. Do Ally McBeal's hemlines really have an effect on the ratings? Study this site's Overnight Network Ratings for the answer, and then read up on the latest movie and TV news, reviews, and rumors. www.backstage-pass.com

PORTALS & SERVICES

NEWCITY.COM. Fight authority with Brian Hieggelke's "antidote to the sanitized, by-the-numbers portals." With partner sites in dozens of U.S. cities, Newcity's network of alternative weeklies and Webzines takes on the Establishment while establishing a lifestyle outpost for the hemp wine-sipping crowd. www.newcity.com

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PICTURE COLLECTION. The sailor kissing the nurse on V-J Day. JFK and Jackie's wedding. William Shatner! Hundreds of thousands of photos from Time Inc. magazines (especially *Time*) are available to search and view—and, if you become a registered visitor, license for use. www.thepicturecollection.com

MARK BOYLE PHOTOGRAPHY: IMAGES OF AUSTRALIA. If your only knowledge of the land down under comes from *Men at Work* and repeated rentals of "*Crocodile Dundee II*," be sure to view these stunning landscapes by photographer Mark Boyle. www.iinet.net.au/~mboyle



Photographer Mark Boyle reveals Australia's beauty in images that border on the surreal.

KIDS & PARENTS

ZEEDS.COM. The heart behind this cutesy site, supposedly set in a *Wuzzles*-like world where fish can fly and sheep can sting, is a search engine with an unforgiving obscenity filter.
www.zeeds.com



Zeeds.com provides free safe-surfing software and the chance to opt for ad-free scenes.

SANITY CENTRAL.COM. Of course you're crazy about the kids. But are the kids driving you crazy? Bedraggled parents can stop here for humorous top-10 lists, strange stories from readers, and other forms of comic relief.
www.sanitycentral.com

TROUBLE. This teen site, which originates from a U.K. television station, features a virtual chat room and all the latest "hot goss." In terms of content, expect as much cheek as James Van Der Beek.
www.trouble.co.uk

MUSIC & VIDEO

SPIN.COM. The print magazine's music coverage has always been tops. Now, after years as an AOL exclusive, it comes to the Web, decked out with provocative playlists on Spin College Radio.
www.spin.com

MELON DEZIGN. Psychedelic lounge music from France is hip enough. But add an animated video of colorful bodies swimming, twisting, and dancing, and you've got...well, a Shockwave presentation that takes a hell of a long time to download. It's worth the wait.
www.melondezign.com

BUSINESS & FINANCE

JOBS.COM. The Resumail It! feature delivers your job qualifications straight to potential employers' desktops, proving much more effective than your "Will Work for Food" sign.
www.jobs.com

INVESTOR-ADVICE. Whether you're a day trader or an inside trader, this site is worth a click: It analyzes a company's information and, via a computer program, predicts the future value of the stock.
www.investoradvice.com

ZINES & NEWS

SCRAWL. Its exclusive interview with the Melissa virus was a journalistic coup. See if this humor zine—whose topics include Andy Kaufman, vampires, and Ikea—can keep 'em coming.
www.scrrawl.org

MS. MAGAZINE. Back on the newsstands after a three-issue hiatus, the famous feminist publication, returned to the hands of cofounder Gloria Steinem, asks Webheads to "wake up and smell the estrogen."
www.msmagazine.com

TIME & TIDE

THE CENTURY: AMERICA'S TIMELINE. Some of you may have a problem remembering last night, much less an entire 100 years. Bone up on what you may have missed with the History Channel's year-by-year highlights of the 20th century.
www.historychannel.com/centurytime

THE MINUS Y2K BUG. What led the Hebrews to escape from Egypt? According to this site, it was the "Minus Y2K bug," which wreaked havoc on the original Silicon Valley (named such for all the sand, of course). For more on this humorous premise—including "Egyptian" art never seen before—venture here.
www.athenet.net/~jlindsay/my2k.shtml

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Native American Culture

GUEST REVIEW



by Buffy Sainte-Marie

A digital pioneer in her own right, this celebrated singer, songwriter, and educator serves as our guide to the new frontier of Indian country

THE BEST ★★★★★

For almost 10 years, Native Americans have been powerful on the Net, combining master's and doctoral credentials with real-deal Indian life experience to provide accurate information to Internet users. Lisa Mitten was one of the first to trudge through the early days of code to offer support and companionship to the few, then the many, and now the stampede of Net users who congregate on Indian sites. A mixed-blood Mohawk who majored in Native American studies and is now a bibliographer at the University of Pittsburgh Library System, Mitten began compiling her index of **NATIVE AMERICAN SITES** in 1994. She deals with two formidable tasks in maintaining this huge database: distinguishing real Indian sites from pretend ones, and

rejecting those sites that are basically online business cards. Like most other visible Native Americans online (and off), she also faces a challenge that comes from a lack of credible mainstream resources: tons of requests from non-Indians who want to trace possible Indian ancestors or research a specific tribe. Although none of us can help much with these personal quests beyond pointing to libraries and sites, the links that Mitten seeks out and makes available offer a mini-education with every visit. Whether you're looking for information about Indian cultural events, pow-wows, museums, colleges, Native American-studies programs, individual tribal nations, urban Indian centers, entertainers, organizations, or magazines, a visit to Mitten's award-winning site will enlighten and entertain you.

www.pitt.edu/~lmitten/indians.html

★★★★★

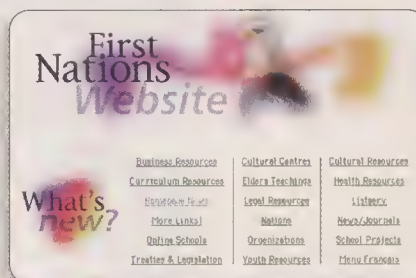
As in the real world, on the Net there's a great difference between the realities of the Native American world and the way tourists perceive us. To bridge that gap, we continue to creatively communicate as we have done for thousands of years, correcting misperceptions as we go. A shining example of this process is the **FIRST NATIONS WEBSITE**. Based in Canada, where the term *First Nations* is preferred over *Indian* or *Native American*, this

impressive hub is full of resources for learning Native American languages, and for finding grade-appropriate curricula about tribal nations and people. Especially wonderful are the links to various sites that provide audio samples of words and phrases in Ojibwa, Cree, and eight other endangered languages. You'll also find links to indigenous-people's literature, cultural centers, stories and legends, herbal lore, and much more.

www.schoolnet.ca/aboriginal ★★★★★

WELCOME TO HANKSVILLE!, an award-winning hub of Native American resources, is the work of Karen Strom at the University of Massachusetts. Here, you can visit Indian country via three personal photo journals. "Travels with Daniel" takes you to the lands of the Lakota and Cheyenne, where you learn about Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, and other great leaders. "Voyage to Another Universe" lets

you visit the tribes of the Southwest, including the Navajo (Dine) and the people of the Pueblos. "Thanksgiving in the Yucatan" explores ancient Mayan culture through the eyes of modern travelers. Much more is housed in Hanks-ville's treasure trove, including "A Line in the Sand," a provocative report that raises the issue of cultural sovereignty on the Web. hanksville.phast.umass.edu ★★★★★



First Nations people are writing their own future in burgeoning Web communities.

Paula Giese died in 1997, but thousands of us still visit her **NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN** resource site and use the information we find there. Beyond the playful, flashy front doors are more than 300 pages to browse, where you'll find a large library of historic maps; indigenous-language resources; lists of Indian authors and books; articles on Native American products; art and



tion *Journal of American Indian Higher Education*. Past features have covered welfare reform, distance education, technology, and cultural affairs. cs.fdl.cc.mn.us/tcj

★★★★☆

Teachers—whether Native American or not—know how much phony, stereotyping material is out there posing as Indian stories. **OYATE**, an index of literature for American Indian children, offers brief reviews of books by and about Native American people and culture, organized by age-appropriate levels.

www.oyate.org ★★★★★

astronomy pages; and a cornucopia of miscellaneous wonders.

indy4.fdl.cc.mn.us/~isk ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

NAVAJOS.COM is a multifaceted site where you can discover the origin of Navajo Nation clans; learn about Navajo language, religion, ceremonials, and sand-paintings; post messages on discussion boards; browse historical texts and photographs; access links to national parks in Navajo areas; and lots more.

www.navajos.com ★★★★★

TECHNIQUES FOR EVALUATING AMERICAN INDIAN WEB SITES by Elaine Cubbins is a useful guide, especially for non-Indian teachers and writers who want to provide good online guidance to others who depend on them for accuracy.

www.u.arizona.edu/~ecubbins/webcrit.html ★★★★★

The **TRIBAL COLLEGE JOURNAL** is the Web companion to the excellent print publica-

Indian law is special. Because we predate the founding of the United States and Canada, as well as the Constitution, treaties are the first law of the land. The **NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND** site provides a wealth of information about tribal constitutions, treaties, self-government, and anything pertaining to Indian justice.

www.narf.org ★★★★★

A thousand years ago, a civilization more sophisticated and powerful than any other in the Western hemisphere north of Mexico grew up and flourished in the rich Mississippi River bottomland of southwestern Illinois. These Native American people—called Mississippians by archaeologists—supported a population as large as 20,000. The **CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE** offers a photo tour of this fascinating center of mound builders, traders, and pyramid people.

medinfo.wustl.edu/~mckinney/cahokia/cahokia.html ★★★★★

The **INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER** transports you to the Southwest, where you can visit sites belonging to 19 Pueblo peoples from the Acoma to the Zuni, each of which is unique. Learn about Pueblo history, legends, and etiquette; find calendars of the ceremonials and dances; and even get directions to the Pueblos themselves.

www.indianpueblo.org ★★★★★

Born on the Piapot (Cree) Reserve in Saskatchewan, Buffy Sainte-Marie is an Academy Award-winning singer/songwriter with a doctorate in fine arts. Founder of the Nibewan Foundation and the Cradleboard Teaching Project, she is also a renowned digital painter and Web pioneer; whose 1991 EMI album, Coincidence and Likely Stories, was the first music CD delivered digitally to the studio via modem and satellite.

HELPING CULTURES CONNECT

When my son was in fifth grade, his teacher asked for my help in presenting a better Indian-studies unit to her students. I looked at the available materials and was appalled that they weren't any better than they had been when I was getting my teaching degree, 15 years earlier: a lot of dead text about dead Indians. I conceived the **CRADLEBOARD TEACHING PROJECT** to reveal and proclaim that "Indians Exist," with an educational program that reaches both Indian and non-Indian students. Before the Net, I ran Cradleboard on a text-only basis. Now we have our own Web site, and thousands of First Nations children network their observations and life experiences into mainstream classrooms via e-mail, live chat, videoconferencing, and interactive CD-ROMs. It's no longer flat information. It's alive. It's people communicating about Indian history and contemporary Indian culture.

www.cradleboard.org

—B.S.-M.



Independence Day

THE BEST ★★★★★

When, in the course of human events, it became necessary to dissolve the political bands connecting them to old King George, the Founding Fathers in Philadelphia took the first painstaking steps toward creating the United States of America. **USHISTORY.ORG** takes almost as much care in recreating Philadelphia as it was at the time of the nation's birth.

Visitors can take seven virtual tours of the City of Brotherly Love, bear arms with colonists in Brandywine Battlefield Park, follow the thread of American history to flag maker Betsy Ross's home page, and listen to a town crier's call to patriots. This terrific time capsule offers multiple pathways to explore, but be sure to brush up on your Documents of Freedom before you leave. Even after more than two centuries, the essence of Independence Day echoes in the site's archive of national treasures, including the Mayflower Compact, the U.S. Constitution, and, of course, the Declaration of Independence. www.ushistory.org ★★★★★

Can't wait for the big fireworks show? Just click to **HAPPY 4TH OF JULY** from Aristotle!, where the eye-popping pyrotechnics would honor even Plato's ideal Republic. Using the Shockwave Flash plug-in (avail-

able on-site), you can compose dazzling displays over seven American skylines from San Francisco to New York, and hear the explosions underscored by rousing patriotic music. If bombast isn't your style, the site's Don't 4-Get History quiz will rack your brain with questions that go beyond the usual I-cannot-tell-a-lie lore. (Do you know, for instance, which state it was that Congress forgot to vote on admitting into the Union?) You can also Go 4th and Celebrate with links to unique small-



TONY GARCIA/TONY STONE

town celebrations, such as the boom-box parade in Windham, Connecticut. www.aristotle.net/july4th ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Before igniting that cache of Roman candles and cherry bombs, make sure your state doesn't limit private fireworks to sparklers and whippersnappers. Start your

THE COMPETITION

Why settle for Celine Dion singing "The Star-Spangled Banner"? Learn about her own country's Canada Day (July 1) at **Canadian Confederation: Celebrations!**—or join the Quebecois who'll be storming the prison gates with the rest of the French-speaking world on **Bastille Day** (July 14). And the fetes just keep on coming on the **July holiday calendar**, where you'll find something to celebrate every day of the month. Our favorites: Fool's Paradise Day (July 13) and Take Your Pants for a Walk Day (July 27). www.nlc-bnc.ca/confed/celebrat.htm
www.powerup.com.au/~rdale/bastille.htm
www.tulane.edu/~wc/months/july.html

research at **THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FIREWORKS SAFETY**, which lists regulations for all states, plus D.C. Once you're aware of your regional restrictions, check out the council's safety quiz in Parent's Corner, as well as the index of typical fireworks injuries (so you can avoid them). www.fireworksafety.com ★★★★★

Maybe you can whip up Fourth of July classics like hamburgers and potato salad, but what about a watermelon carved like Artie the Airplane? Kate.net's **HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!** has the recipes for cooking up an extravagant outdoor feast on the Fourth, and this site dishes out more than food-stuffs, too. Pick from a potluck of holiday-themed e-cards, screen savers, and Windows wallpaper, or follow dozens of related links to everything from flag-folding lessons to tips on picnic etiquette. kate.gulf.net/holidays/4thjuly ★★★★★

Love bombs bursting in air? After the fireworks fade overhead, you don't have to wait until next year: **FIREWORKSLAND** is a pyromaniac's Eden, with addresses for pyrotechnic clubs, a fireworks mall, a directory of dealers in the U.S.—and even a how-to for getting your own display permit. This site plugs a magazine and a buyer's guide, both aimed at professionals, but everyone can enjoy the QuickTime video shows and animated .GIFs of Silver Glittering Flowers and other backyard beauties. fireworksland.com ★★★★★ —B.V.D.

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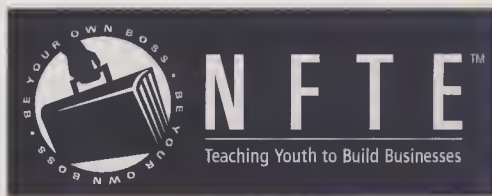
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THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR TEACHING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Financing a House

THE BEST ★★★★★

For once, the real estate industry's eternal mantra that "now is the time to buy" may be true. With incomes rising and interest rates relatively low, housing hasn't been this affordable in decades. So if you're ready for a nest of your own, make **MSN HOMEADVISOR** your first stop. A veritable Swiss Army knife of house-hunting resources, the site offers great primers on the ABCs of purchasing a home, plus interactive calculators that let you compute everything from how large a house you can afford to how much you could save by buying instead of renting. You can also compare current rates

from leading lenders and view listings of homes in your price range. homeadvisor.msn.com ★★★

If you'd rather be boiled in oil than spend days trapped in a car with a chattering real estate agent, start your home search with **REALTOR.COM**. Ranked among *Y-Life's* 50 Most Incredibly Useful Sites (see page 90), this resource boasts listings for roughly 90 percent of all homes currently on the U.S. market—more than most other sites. You can customize searches by number of bedrooms and other amenities, as well as by demographic data. Although **HOMEScout** has fewer listings, it's also worth a click, and it even beats Realtor.com in a few markets: Our search of homes for less than \$250,000 in Alexandria, Virginia, for instance, turned up more than 1,000 listings at HomeScout versus 300 on Realtor.com.

www.realtor.com ★★★
www.homescout.com ★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

So you've found your dream home. Now all you have to do is pay for it. Many sites offer free calculators that estimate how much you can borrow, but **IQUALIFY** goes one step further: Submit an application and—if you meet the criteria for funding from any of its 19 participating lenders—iQualify will e-mail you within five minutes. What distinguishes iQualify is that it uses underwriting criteria developed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, quasi-governmental agencies

that buy mortgages from the banks that originated them. The fee, \$39, is refundable if you use one of iQualify's lenders. www.igualify.com ★★★

When you're shopping for a loan, be sure to visit **KEYSTROKE FINANCIAL**. Here you will get quotes from about 200 lenders—roughly three times as many as on the next-largest site, **E-LOAN**—with interest rates updated daily. Those with less-than-sterling credit should head to **ALLIANCE MORTGAGE**, which specializes in mortgages geared toward buyers with bankruptcy or other financial problems. www.keystroket.net ★★★
www.eloan.com ★★★
www.alliancemtg.com ★★★

You have financing in hand and are ready to make your best offer on a new home. But for how much? Too low, and you might lose to other bidders; too high, and you could flush thousands of dollars down the drain. If you want help in determining fair market value, for a mere \$9.95 **EXPERIAN REAL ESTATE INFORMATION** will draw from its database of millions of public records and deliver the current assessed value and last sale price of almost any property, plus the latest sale prices and descriptions of four neighboring homes. www.experian.com/ecommerce/consumer.html#real ★★★

Your bid was accepted? Congrats! Now prepare to be shaken down for thousands of dollars in closing costs that your agent probably didn't mention, such as \$350 for a home appraisal. But at **CSWONLINE**, you can get a \$25 "automated property evaluation" of home values, based on the site's database of millions of transactions. Mortgage lenders dealing with borrowers who have good credit will sometimes accept these numbers; it always pays to ask. www.cswonline.com/index.shtml ★★★

Getting a good home inspection could save you big money on later repairs. **HOUSEMASTER**, a national home-inspection service, offers tips on spotting such common headaches as leaky roofs. www.uha.org/uha/housemaster/body.htm ★★★

—D.F.

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Safety & First Aid

THE BEST ★★★★★

If you've seen the 1972 movie *Deliverance* and you're still interested in signing up for one of those white-water rafting or canoeing trips, you should at least pay a visit to **WATER SAFETY & FIRST AID**, an excellent page of links compiled by MiningCo.com. The useful information you'll find here may not save you from the locals, but it could help prevent other injuries and mishaps. Learn how to recognize and avoid various water hazards, what to do in the middle of a lightning storm, how to perform white-water rescues, and how to construct a wilderness and white-water survival/first-aid kit. Check the International Scale of River Difficulty before you sign up for the wrong trip—you don't want to wind up as a statistic in the U.S. Whitewater Accident Database (also linked on this page), which details all recent injuries and fatalities that have occurred on U.S. rivers. So take a break from the banjo practice to visit this enlightening site before you embark on a Class VI river (extreme danger).

canoe.miningco.com/msub1.htm ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

On your way to the beach? Along with the sunscreen, towels, and volleyball, don't forget to pack the vinegar. That's

right, vinegar (also known as 5 percent acetic acid), which may come in handy: It is very effective in neutralizing most marine stings, such as those of the jellyfish, sea wasp, stingray, and even the dreaded Portuguese man-of-war. Of course, you would have already known this if you had visited LifeWell's **SUMMER SURVIVAL GUIDE**. This excellent all-around resource covers many other



BOB THOMASTON/STONE

seasonal hazards, from heat waves to hurricanes, and devotes entire sections to camping and fireworks safety tips. But Bites and Stings makes the liveliest reading, with info on insect, animal, and human bites (which are among the most likely to cause infection), as well as venomous snakes. Here you'll learn how the simple phrase "red on black, good for Jack; red on yellow kills a fellow" will help you avoid the deadly coral snake, which belongs to one of the two poisonous reptile families that inhabit the United States. www.lifewell.com/events/summerguide/firstaid/facts ★★★★★

Are tanning beds really a safer way to get a tan? How can you recognize skin cancer? Is poison ivy "catching," and does it spread by scratching? You can find answers to these and other perplexing questions at **ASK NOAH ABOUT: DERMATOLOGY**, which provides an excellent index of skin-related sites arranged according to category. Browse through pictures of poison ivy, oak, and sumac to help you avoid these plants during hikes—and access advice on how to treat the associated rash should you be so unlucky as to come in contact with them. Especially useful is the daily UV (ultraviolet) index for various U.S. regions and cities, found in the Tanning Sun Exposure section. Consulting these pages will tell you how much exposure to the sun is likely to result in skin damage that can lead to wrinkles or cancer.

www.noah.cuny.edu/dermatology/derm.html

★★★★★

Plan to go camping this summer? Even if you're just taking a day trip into the woods, you may want to consult the **HEALTH & SAFETY** section of the Adventure Network before heading out. This well-equipped site provides a broad array of useful advice that could even

save your life, from how to build a good emergency survival kit to a step-by-step guide to cleaning, closing, and dressing a wound. The menu includes special tips for kids and pregnant women, along with good general guidelines for outdoor fitness, such as how to choose the best water filter and treat all kinds of bites and stings. And if your own roughing-it skills date back to your backyard-camping days, you can e-mail Adventure Network's experts for answers to your tenderfoot questions.

www.adventurenetwork.com/HEALTHTemp.html
★★★★★ —C.C.



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- Active server pages & ODBC support
- SQL server support for UNIX and NT
- Free website statistics and reporting tool (WebTrends™)
- Secure server and free shopping cart
- Realtime logs (including referring URLs)
- UNIX and NT based web servers
- Easy web based configuration of your website
- Real Audio & Video™, NetShow™, ColdFusion™, Cybercash™ and more
- Co-located and dedicated servers
- Support for leading e-commerce solutions (including Open Market™, Mercantec™, Miva Merchant™, Hot Metal Application Server™, and more)

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Festival Guides

THE BEST ★★★★★

Itching to play hooky from your office cubicle? Grab your sandals, your sense of adventure, and your wallet, and then go hit the festival circuit, which peaks during summertime. If you think that the only fests out there are filled with pierced teens, aging hippies, and the lethal combination of too much sun and too much beer, it's time to expand your horizons. You'll find an event that's right for you at **FESTIVALS.COM**, where the merriment possibilities range from Native American powwows to food-and-wine fiestas to monster-truck extravaganzas. Feature stories, a quick-search Festival Finder, links to travel options, and more parties than one person could attend in a lifetime make this site No. 1. Never again will you utter the words "There's nothing to do." www.festivals.com ★★★★★

Wine and cheese on a blanket with Bach—or beer and burgers on the beach with the Beastie Boys? **FESTIVALFINDER** offers one-stop shopping for more than 1,500 musical events throughout North America. Click on your favorite genre and get complete listings of events, with detailed descriptions and answers to such FAQs as "Are dogs allowed?" and "Should we bring the kids?" Whether you're backpacking through the Rockies or driving cross-country on the interstate, this site will ensure you don't miss a thing that *does* have that swing. www.festivalfinder.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Proving that corporate sponsorship and big-name talent have not completely taken over the good old-fashioned coun-

try fair, **FAIRS NET** celebrates the community spirit that launched three-legged races and pie-eating contests. Here you'll find a searchable calendar filled with quirky local happenings that provide amusing alternatives to Woodstock 30. www.fairsnet.org ★★★★★

Fairs Net traces community fests back to Persia in the fifth century B.C. But you can bet a Confederate dollar that tobacco- and watermelon seed-spitting contests were inventions of the American South, where the locals throw a unique kind of country party. **SOUTHERN FESTIVALS** is the best place to find festivals celebrating the oyster, the pickle, and the catfish. More than the answer to a pregnant woman's cravings, this site captures the individual spirit and diverse tastes found below the Mason-Dixon line. www.southfest.com ★★★★★

Love 'em or hate 'em, Renaissance revivals (known as *Renfests* to insiders) are second only to music festivals in popularity. These traveling re-creations of medieval times are a refuge for

people who want to escape the 20th century—with the exception of the Web, which they actively embrace. **RENAISSANCE FAIRE** invites lords and ladies to enter a magical world where knights joust and fairies play. Click on your home state for local info, check out crafts from retro-artisans, reach others through the town crier, and find links to all the Renfest characters, from jesters to period manicurists. www.renaissance-faire.com ★★★★★

For those who just want the skinny on big-is-better events, **E!** Online has narrowed a vast field down with **SHAKIN' ALL OVER: YOUR INTERACTIVE GUIDE TO AMERICA'S 50 BEST MUSIC FESTS**. Searching by genre, region, or month is quick and efficient. But with such industry confabs as North by Northwest peppering the list, this site is clearly geared toward those for whom music is much more than a hobby. www.eonline.com/Hot/Features/Festivals ★★★★★

One-hundred-degree heat and

100 percent humidity will keep any festival enthusiast locked inside with the air conditioner on high. Luckily for us, it's always a cool and sunny 75 degrees in cyberspace—and the virtual tents at **WEBHIPPIE: THE STREET FAIR** are always open. At this online street fair, you can listen to Radio Free Berkeley while you browse the concourse of crafts. www.webhippie.com/streetfr.html ★★★★★

—C.E.



From romantic Renaissance Faires to catfish wrestling at Southern Festivals, the Web invites you to the party.

Beaches

THE BEST ★★★★★

"Life's a beach!" doesn't sound quite so corny and clichéd this time of year. From the moneyed shores of Martha's Vineyard to SoCal's *Baywatch* turf of buff bods and sub-bikinis, folks are crowding every spare inch of sand. But which strand rules? Dr. Stephen Leatherman, director of Florida International University's International Hurricane Center, ranks the **BEST BEACHES IN THE USA**, based on 50 criteria ranging from sand softness to lifeguard protection. For those with frequent-flier miles handy, 1998's No. 1 surf'n' sun paradise was Kailua Beach Park in Hawaii. www.petrix.com/beaches ★★★★★

The world is your oyster at **OCEANBLUE**, which touts the best beaches around the globe and offers resources for sea sports from windsurfing to bodyboarding. But dude, this site is so laid-back, we suggest you have a cup of strong coffee before

that there are some secluded shores where they can toast their buns without fear of arrest. This clever, well-written site offers capsule descriptions of the beaches with detailed driving directions. The home page does warn off minors, but there really is nothing here to offend any regular viewer of cable TV. nudebeachguide.com ★★★★★

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based in Provincetown, Massachusetts, has rescued more than 40 whales since its inception in 1984. Its attractive **WHALE RESCUE** page describes the art of saving these seafaring mammals. www.coastalstudies.org/rescue ★★★★★

Thanks to Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, a new generation of ears has heard the oceanic roar of Dick Dale's reverber-heavy guitar. **DICK DALE'S OFFICIAL WORLD WIDE WEBSITE** honors this American original. While those populist icons known as the Beach Boys rarely went near the water, Dale was justly dubbed "King of the Surf Guitar" by his fellow surfers. www.dickdale.com ★★★★★

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—J.L.



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Festival Guides

THE BEST ★★★★★

Itching to play hooky from your office cubicle? Grab your sandals, your sense of adventure, and your wallet, and then go hit the festival circuit, which peaks during summertime. If you think that the only fests out there are filled with pierced teens, aging hippies, and the lethal combination of too much sun and too much beer, it's time to expand your horizons. You'll find an event that's right for you at **FESTIVALS.COM**, where the merriment possibilities range from Native American powwows to food-and-wine fiestas to monster-truck extravaganzas. Feature stories, a quick-search Festival Finder, links to travel options, and more parties than one person could attend in a lifetime make this site No. 1. Never again will you utter the words "There's nothing to do."
www.festivals.com ★★★

Wine and cheese on a blanket with Bach—or beer and the Beastie—offers one-stop shopping for 1,500 musical events in America. Click on the site and get complete details and descriptions of such FAQs as "Are you a fan?" "Should we bring a cooler?" "Are you're backpacking?" "Are you driving cross-country?" "Are you interstate, this site will miss a thing that you want."
www.festivalfinder.com

THE REST

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try fair, **FAIRS NET** celebrates the community spirit that launched three-legged races and pie-eating contests. Here you'll find a searchable calendar filled with quirky local happenings that provide amusing alternatives to Woodstock 30.
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www.renaissance-faire.com ★★★☆

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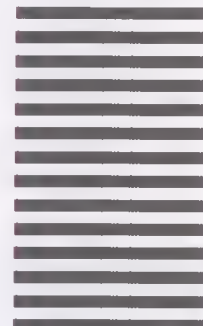
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Beaches

THE BEST ★★★★★

"Life's a beach!" doesn't sound quite so corny and clichéd this time of year. From the moneyed shores of Martha's Vineyard to SoCal's *Baywatch* turf of buff bods and sub-bikinis, folks are crowding every spare inch of sand. But which strand rules? Dr. Stephen Leatherman, director of Florida International University's International Hurricane Center, ranks the **BEST BEACHES IN THE USA**, based on 50 criteria ranging from sand softness to lifeguard protection. For those with frequent-flier miles handy, 1998's No. 1 surf'n' sun paradise was Kailua Beach Park in Hawaii. www.petrix.com/beaches ★★★★★

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THE REST ★★★★★

The Web's contribution to beach culture is the surfcam—a fixed digital camera that usually updates its image every 10 minutes. The **WORLD SURF CAMERAS** site links to dozens of surfcams perched on beaches around the globe. Who knows? Maybe these devices help people make it through the summer in such landlocked states as Nebraska. goan.com/surfcam.html ★★★★★

Although nude beaches are usually associated with the more liberated West Coast, **NUDE BEACHES OF THE NORTHEAST** assures naturists of the Eastern Seaboard

that there are some secluded shores where they can toast their buns without fear of arrest. This clever, well-written site offers capsule descriptions of the beaches with detailed driving directions. The home page does warn off minors, but there really is nothing here to offend any regular viewer of cable TV. nudebeachguide.com ★★★★★

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The first American lighthouse beamed its light across Boston Harbor in 1716. Since then, many people have been seduced by these fascinating structures—a passion that has transferred to the Web. **LEGENDARY LIGHTHOUSES**, created as an adjunct to the PBS television special of the same name, explores the lore of these seaside beacons with crisp photos and informative text. www.pbs.org/legendarylighthouses ★★★★★

A popular activity at many shore areas is the whale-watching cruise. The Center for Coastal Studies,

based in Provincetown, Massachusetts, has rescued more than 40 whales since its inception in 1984. Its attractive **WHALE RESCUE** page describes the art of saving these seafaring mammals. www.coastalstudies.org/rescue ★★★★★

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—J.L.



Horseback Riding

THE BEST ★★★★★

Once bitten by the equestrian bug—whether it's the classy English strain or the more egalitarian Western variety—people seem to fall victim to the virus for life. Those of us exposed at a tender age know the frustration of being forced to settle for makeshift park paths when our heart's desire was a full-out gallop across a wind-swept plain. Such dream outings are the stock-in-trade of **EQUITOUR WORLDWIDE RIDING HOLIDAYS**, an organization that has been orchestrating equine escapades on six continents for 20 years. The handy Clickable World Map at its Web site helps you access complete agendas for tours in such countries as Kenya, Jordan,

and Belize, at surprisingly reasonable rates: An 11-day horseback safari (nine days of riding) in Botswana, Africa, runs just over \$3,000. Participants saddle up for these expeditions in traditional English style—



a delicious prospect for any equestrian who grew up posting in penned-up rings. www.ridingtours.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★

Based in the U.K., **NEW RIDER** is devoted to English riding (natch), and takes you step-by-step through all that the equestrian life entails, from learning the basic paces to grooming the horse to wearing the proper gear. For anyone considering riding for the first time (and, especially, older virgin riders), this online resource is indispensable. It gets you thoroughly acquainted with the sport and puts the beginner at ease by explaining

how and why horses behave the way they do.

www.newrider.com ★★★★★

Is your copy of *City Slickers* so worn that Billy Crystal is just a ghostly blur? Then you may want to visit the **ALL 'ROUND RANCH**, located on the Blue Mountain Plateau adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument, on the Colorado-Utah border. Check the Greenhorn's Guide to Cowboy Adventures and

find out if you have what it takes to sit tall in the saddle, then sign up for a six-day cowpunching adventure (\$1,150), which includes such activities as culling strays, branding calves, and riding herd to get these "not-so-little dogies where you want them."

www.allroundranch.com ★★★★★

If becoming a working cowboy isn't your idea of a good time, you'll find more laid-back recreation at **BALD EAGLE RANCH** in Bandera, Texas. Here, the saddle is merely the best seat from which to enjoy the expansive horizon, and a hot tub and swimming pool await you at trail's end. True horse folks who have bred and shown Arabians since 1974, the ranch owners offer down-home hospitality—several scenes of which you can view in the site's slide show. Need more proof that you're heading for real-deal Texas? You're advised to BYOB, because Bald Eagle is located in one of the state's dry counties. www.baldeagleranch.com ★★★★★ —K.S.

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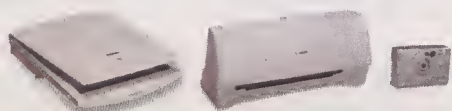
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If you've seen any of these children, please call the NCMEC hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST.

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A recent poll among law enforcement found that pictures are the most important tool in the search for missing children. Canon is donating CanoScan® scanners, Bubble Jet® printers and PowerShot® digital cameras to help get the photos out quickly.



Canon

Travel with Kids

THE BEST ★★★★★

Are we there yet? Using the Net to plan a family vacation may not answer that classic question, but it can help make your trip more fun. Get off to a running start at Disney's **FAMILY.COM: TRAVEL**, which offers far more than just a passport to the Magic Kingdom. Read practical advice on how to create Itineraries That Really Work, or browse suggestions for such offbeat destinations as a factory tour or a New England farm resort. Check what other families have done in Road-Tested Vacations, or use the Travel Planner to locate intriguing day trips, bargain deals, overseas excursions, family-friendly cruises, and a plethora of theme parks that range well beyond the Disney franchise. The Local Resources section is a boon for any U.S. road trip, as is the page on car games and stories to distract young ones from asking you-know-what.

family.go.com/Categories/Travel

★★★★★

Headed for the great outdoors? Don't leave home without logging on to **GORP—GREAT OUTDOOR RECREATION PAGES: FAMILY**. This site has loads of helpful advice on everything from backpacking and climbing with kids to stress-free travel with tots. Outdoor activities like hiking, birding, hang gliding, and caving are organized by region, and the Attractions section provides important information about national forests and parks, including how to make reservations and which facilities are offered at each destination.

Best of all is the wide-ranging Travel/Tours area, where you can find a family bike trip in Vermont, a dude ranch in Montana, or an ecotour in Belize. To round it all out, the Gear section offers sound advice on properly outfitting your family, and well-chosen links to sites that sell outdoor equipment.

www.gorp.com/gorp/eclectic/family.htm

★★★★★



THE REST ★★★★★

Becoming a member of **FAMILY TRAVEL FORUM** lets you access excellent articles on such subjects as Best Family Resorts for Golfers and entitles you to travel discounts that make the subscription fee worthwhile. (The fee is \$2.95 a month, or \$28 a year, for online only; \$48 a year includes a bimonthly print magazine.) But even nonmembers will find plenty to browse through here: an

outstanding index of family-travel links and family-centered travel agents, open forums in which to trade tips and share travel nightmares, and links to great deals on package trips.

www.familytravelforum.com ★★★★★

Car camping can be a fun and economical way to see the country. **CAMP-A-ROO: CAMPING WITH KIDS** helps you prepare with a great packing checklist and a Think on It section that discusses outdoor etiquette and campground rules. Family Issues covers such specific subjects as single-parent camping and what to do about missing school. Tips and Tricks offers advice about how to camp with different age groups, from infants (easy) and toddlers (challenging) all the

way up to teens (ditto). Despite a few technical glitches, strong content on such topics as campfire safety, first aid, and high-altitude camping makes this an informative stop along the trail.

www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/2400 ★★★★★

MSN EXPEDIA FAMILY FORUM is the place to connect with other families on the move via bulletin boards and chat rooms. Children will enjoy the Kids Only board, and parents can choose from an intriguing menu of chats. Past topics include Houseboating 101, Adventure Travel, and Making Family Trips Fun.

expedia.msn.com/forums/family

★★★★☆

If you need a siren call to lure you on the road, you'll find plenty of inspiration at **WORLDHOP**, which documents the adventures of the Mason-Slaughter family during a yearlong tour of 18 countries. In-depth travelogues cover every place they visited from the viewpoint of each family member, and include recipes, stories, games, links, and hundreds of pictures. Honest and heartfelt, this vast site is also great for kids to read and explore.

www.worldhop.com ★★★★★

—L.K.

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Sexual Thrillers

THE BEST ★★★★★

First things first: **COMING ATTRACTIONS BY CORONA: EYES WIDE SHUT** does not have any sexy 90-second clips of Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman making out in the buff. What it does have is the Internet's most comprehensive collection of rumors and confirmed news about arguably the most secretive production of all time, from the late director of *A Clockwork Orange*, 2001, and other cinematic paradigm shifts. Check out spy photos of the set, and read all sorts of gossip about the movie, from the film stock used to the sexual fantasies it explores to its debt to Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Why was Jennifer Jason Leigh



Stanley Kubrick's sizzling swan song: *Eyes Wide Shut*

replaced with Marie Richardson? How does the movie end? Many of these issues will be resolved come July 16, when the movie opens, but some questions may never be answered completely. www.corona.bc.ca/films/details/eyeswideshut.html ★★★★★

Blue Velvet, *Wild at Heart*, *Lost Highway*—David Lynch has been making the jaws of both critics and admirers drop for some

time now. The somewhat less controversial **LYNCHNET: THE DAVID LYNCH RESOURCE** offers an entertaining ride through this odd filmmaker's life and career, with stills, clips, scripts, and interviews. Find out about the director's upcoming film, *The Straight Story*, chat with other Lynch fanatics, and download clips of homages to Lynch from *The Simpsons*.

www.mikedunn.com/lynch ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Somewhere between erotic and repellent, David Cronenberg's *Crash*—with its depiction of characters sexually aroused by car accidents—provoked a lot of backlash upon its release. The official **CRASH** site mimics the film's dark, sinister tone while offering surprisingly in-depth interviews with Cronenberg (in which he tackles such subjects as "the mortification of the flesh") and author J.G. Ballard. For a look at the latest from the director who wowed and outraged audiences with such films as *Videodrome*, *Dead Ringers*, and *Naked Lunch*, visit Cronenberg's **EXISTENZ**, which provides loads of images from his visceral deconstruction of virtual reality and human sexuality. Leave the kids at home!

www.flf.com/crash ★★★★★

www.existenz.com ★★★★★

Last year's lamebrain shot-for-shot remake notwithstanding, Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* is still a pretty scary movie. Back in 1960, Hitch pushed the envelope by hinting at nudity and premarital sex and by showing—*gasp!*—an actual toilet flushing. The **ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S PSYCHO** site pays tribute to his masterpiece with film clips and stills from each angle of the infa-

KUBRICK TRIBUTE SITES

THE KUBRICK SITE provides an ocean of critical essays, news articles, and interviews with the director and his collaborators—making it the first stop for anyone seeking to understand his films. For bounteous images and sounds, visit the elegantly designed **KUBRICK MULTIMEDIA FILM GUIDE**. Choice Kubrick arcana, such as a clip of his acceptance speech for the D.W. Griffith Award, can be found on the **STANLEY KUBRICK** site. Part of the official *Eyes Wide Shut* site, **CHRISTIANE KUBRICK'S WEBSITE** was set up by his wife of 41 years to "confirm the truths" and "correct the inaccuracies." Keep your eyes wide open for further revelations.

amk.atc.dmac.cc.ia.us

www.lehigh.edu/~pj12/kubrick

www.aiwass.freeseerve.co.uk

www.eyeswideshut.com/ck.html



mous shower sequence, as well as some intriguing trivia.

www.nightprods.com/psycho ★★★★★

When you ask most people who were around in the early '70s about sex in the cinema, the first words out of their mouths are usually *Last Tango in Paris*. Film professor Todd Stabley's **LAST TANGO IN PARIS** page explores Bernardo Bertolucci's shocking psychodrama with clips, stills, and a cogent analysis of the use of Francis Bacon's paintings in the film (though it fails to deconstruct that stick of butter). metalab.unc.edu/stabley/lt1.html ★★★★★

Filmsite's **SEXUAL OR EROTIC FILMS**, which provides a brief history of sexuality in film (dating back to the early silents) and a list of relevant movies, is a good place to start looking for carnality in the cineplex. www.filmsite.org/sexualfilms.html

★★★★★

—B.E.



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Jam Bands

THE BEST ★★★★★

Free-form grooves and free-flowing attitudes are the essence of the jam band scene. Although there have been times in music history when such lucky groups as Blues Traveler have managed to seep into mainstream consciousness, for the most part the bands and their fiercely loyal fans live a nomadic existence in clubs, stadiums, and parking lots around the world. Now they can congregate at **JAMBANDS.COM**, a monthly e-zine that is quickly becoming their bible. Well-written features and CD reviews, as well as a list of "Jam Band Radio Shows" online and tour dates galore,

PASSING THE TORCH

The granddaddy of the play-all-night, tour-all-year-and-they-will-come philosophy is, of course, The Grateful Dead. The official **DEAD.NET** captures the magic of a band that comes along once in a millennium—and it's one of the most beautifully designed sites we've ever seen. With Dead lyricist Robert Hunter as Webmaster, you have access to precious bits of history like handwritten drafts of classic songs. There's so much to browse through, you might need a set break. But the torch has been passed, and Phish now rules the tie-dyed kingdom. With thousands of virtual Phishing holes, you're bound to snag your line. We recommend the official **PHISH.COM**, which may not offer the eye candy of Dead.net but does provide reliable information about the past and the future of the band (a rarity among Phish sites). The best of the fan sites is **THE PHISH.NET**, the premier spot to connect with other people devoted to marine music.

www.dead.net

www.phish.com

www.phish.net

make this site the first destination for those in search of the ultimate groove. www.jambands.com ★★★★★

Many jam band junkies claim to have had an out-of-body experience, but the fact remains that they can be in only one place at a time. To find out what was happening while they were off recording Phish at the Garden (or perhaps before they were born), folks log on to **PAUSE/RECORD**, which houses an exhaustive list of links to all the best taper and set-list sites. Pause/Record also makes sure that no matter where you live, the jam is with you: EventFinder offers links to local clubs, organized by state. You can also browse current articles about the scene or join an ongoing debate about the best live show of all time. www.pauserecord.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Tapers are much like the White House press corps: They follow their subjects around the globe, making sure that each note is documented, logged, and saved for posterity. **ASTROJAMS** shares the fruits of the tapers' labor and welcomes you to join the MP3 revolution. Its collection of free MP3 files spanning four decades of sonic surprises is virtual nirvana to fans whose enthusiastic com-

ments like "THE BEST SCARLET FIRE EVER" dare you not to download every show. Among the sonic gems you can snag here are 53 live Phish performances and kickin' shows from such jammer faves as Widespread Panic and Dave Matthews Band.

www.deadabase.com ★★★★★

THE HOMEGROWN MUSIC NETWORK is a collective of bands that are doing it their own way, and their Web site is the place to find tomorrow's stars. Listen to Homegrown Radio tunes 24/7, or go old school and call Buzz A Band to hear music and info on such current favorites as the Disco Biscuits and Ominous Seapods. New to the scene?



What a long, strange trip it's been: The Grateful Dead (shown here circa 1969) spawned a new generation of jam bands.

Order one of Homegrown's compilation CDs, and you'll be twirling or doing the hippie shuffle in no time.

versanet.com/homegrown ★★★★★

Perhaps the only thing the jam band scene has in common with the corporate culture it rejects is male domination. Now, thanks to the Web, **CHICKS WITH TAPE DECKS** are knocking on the glass ceiling. This much-needed site helps female enthusiasts get in touch with one another and encourages them to get started in the taping world. You go, girl. syrup.org/women-tapers ★★★★★ —C.E.

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thenewage.com ★★★★★

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www.realastrology.com ★★★★★

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www.yastrologer.com

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www.astrology.ca ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Now that you better understand what makes you tick, take advantage of **ASTROLOGY ZONE** BY **SUSAN MILLER** to manage your little quirks and foibles. You say you're a Cancer? On Miller's Fitness by Sign page, found in the Life & Love section, you will discover that stress often manifests itself in your belly. So relax with the recommended swim, little Crab, and you'll feel much better.

www.astrologyzone.go.com ★★★★★

Love and marriage, love and marriage...need we say more? Test your compatibility with your lover or partner at **ASTRONET**, a page geared toward women. And if it appears that Cupid has been playing tricks on you, lighten up with other options such as CareerScopes or HumorScopes. Or surf over to iVillage's **ASTROLOGY.NET** and see what the Chinese stars foretell—though you may discover that your Rabbit is still better off with a Goat than a Snake.

www.astronet.com

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If it's money that keeps you warm at night, visit **NET-STROLOGY** to learn the most auspicious moment to buy and sell. You can even get birth data on your favorite exchange. For instance, the New York Stock Exchange was born on May 17, 1792, at 10:10 a.m., which makes it a gambler and dreamer constantly at odds with

its practical, conservative side.

www.techweb.com/infoseek/horoscope

★★★★☆

Sometimes, off the beaten track is the best place to meet a sage. If a dry British wit is to your liking, Jonathan Cainer's **YOUR DAILY ZODIAC FORECAST** should add the necessary snap, crackle, and pop to your day. Or for a little backcountry wisdom, drop in at Kramer Wetzel's trailer in Austin, Texas. This former motorcycle mechanic considers Shakespeare his soul mate. He also reveres the King, so after you've reeled in his quirky **FISHING GUIDE TO THE STARS**, drop a line into his Elvis & Me section and view a rather fishy photo of Kramer standing alongside a young Elvis.

stars.metawire.com ★★★★★

www.astrofich.net ★★★★★

—A.F.



TONY STONE

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40	\$ 148	\$ 183	\$ 185	\$ 263	\$ 273
45	\$ 200	\$ 210	\$ 265	\$ 360	\$ 393
50	\$ 260	\$ 305	\$ 375	\$ 535	\$ 590
55	\$ 380	\$ 428	\$ 578	\$ 1,018	\$ 1,065
60	\$ 528	\$ 675	\$ 865	\$ 3,140	\$ 3,140
65	\$ 838	\$ 993	\$1,633	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
70	\$1,400	\$ 1,637	\$3,283	\$ 5,270	\$ 7,220
75	\$2,797	\$ 4,770	\$6,560	\$10,370	\$10,370

Age	10 YEAR	15 YEAR	20 YEAR	25 YEAR	30 YEAR
35	\$ 138	\$ 153	\$ 178	\$ 245	\$ 273
40	\$ 161	\$ 199	\$ 243	\$ 345	\$ 360
45	\$ 240	\$ 315	\$ 375	\$ 500	\$ 523
50	\$ 358	\$ 483	\$ 558	\$ 798	\$ 838
55	\$ 535	\$ 720	\$ 848	\$ 1,640	\$ 2,810
60	\$ 860	\$ 1,070	\$1,353	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
65	\$1,453	\$ 1,813	\$2,850	\$ 5,270	\$ 5,270
70	\$2,620	\$ 3,503	\$5,405	\$ 7,370	\$10,070
75	\$4,415	\$ 7,848	\$9,650	\$13,640	\$13,640

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REVIEWS

J U S T F O R F U N

Junk Food

THE BEST ★★★★★

Anyone who ever haunted penny-candy counters as a kid may end up cursing **CANDY DIRECT**. This online mart lets you order store-size boxes of the kind of gums, taffies, and lollipops that were once available for a nickel. The novelties section alone features hundreds of sources of empty calories, ranging from the classic Candy Cigarettes and Pixy Stix to Spice Girls Crazy Dips. Don't say we didn't warn you.

www.candydirect.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Though it's never been proved in a lab or a court of law, legend has it that Hostess Twinkies stay fresh for eight years. You'd think someone would address such things at **PLANET TWINKIE**, the official Web site, but no. Instead, there are games, including Twinkie ESP (think Concentration with snack cakes), Twinkie e-postcards, and recipes for such Twinkie-enhanced creations as Tropical Twinkie Lasagna. Be extra careful when you type the URL, though: Twinkie.com (singular) will land you in the Dominion of Shattered Souls. Just desserts?

www.twinkies.com ★★★★★

BUTTERFINGER doesn't try to convince you of anything. Instead, this animated and funky-looking site (reminiscent of '60s jazz albums) has games and other fun stuff, including Butterfinger Rescue Mission, in which spokesman Bart Simpson chases Sideshow Bob.

www.butterfinger.com ★★★★★

Set up like a TV station, the **M&M's NET-WORK** has a schedule of programs, includ-



GARY BLISS/PPG

ing a sports show with info about its sponsored race car, and a baking channel with sinful recipes. The site also treats the little candies as if they're human TV stars, with tours of the trailers of Blue, Red, Yellow, and Green (whose shoe collection rivals that of Imelda Marcos).

www.m-ms.com ★★★★★

Working more like a music site than one promoting chips, **DORITOS 99** presents live chats with such pop stars as Dishwalla as well as a radio station that claims to have the loudest music around. Which isn't to say that it's all about the tunes, baby. The page also features a chat with the Doritos girl, Ali Landry, and even has a photo gallery of this crunchy spokesmodel.

www.doritos.com ★★★★★

—P.S.

A LINK TOO FAR...

For those who wouldn't dream of eating artificially flavored junk, **MACROBIOTICS ONLINE** offers instructions for making such disgustingly wholesome fare as Mock Banana Pudding with Parsnips.

www.macrobiotics.org/KitchenDessertPudding.html



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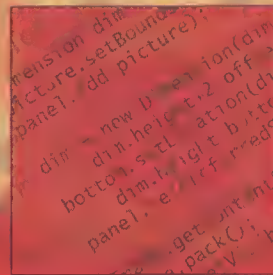
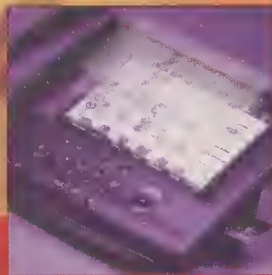
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YHZHX

of the Net does not mean that it is free or unmonitored. One of the best examples of how the Milosevic regime is prepared to deal with independent reporting, and of how this is reflected on the Net, is the case of **Radio B92** [www.b92.net]. Since the early '90s, the Belgrade station and its Web site had been major sources of independent news within Yugoslavia. Its online department, using special network technology, provided a channel for uncensored e-mail.

In December 1996, when Milosevic closed down the station's transmitter (in response to public outcry over his annulment of unfavorable election results), B92 sent its signal to Amsterdam over an Internet connection—which had been installed on the very day that the transmitter was turned off. From Amsterdam, the BBC picked up the signal and broadcast B92 to Yugoslavia and the rest of the world. This year, a few hours after the NATO bombing began, B92 was banned again, and much of its transmission equipment was confiscated. For 10 days, it continued to broadcast over the Web, but on April 2 the entire operation was finally shuttered. Even then, officials were slightly confused by the technology. "They sealed off the premises," says Pantic, who ran the station's Internet operations, "but they let the machines run. After a few hours, they realized this was not working." Eventually, B92's Web broadcasts were shut down as well.

Veran Matic, B92's editor in chief, says that the station's closing did not stop the online flow. "This was a huge area beyond the regime's control, so they decided to close down the radio," says Matic. "Now we are communicating by means of our private computers from our homes with our representatives in Amsterdam, where the Help B92 Web site was set up. They are helping us to facilitate the Internet communication and increase the capacity of this information channel. This online communication suits the regime, since thus we are able to launch more-serious actions and campaigns against the bombardment."

OFFERING PROTECTIVE COVER

As the B92 case made clear, electronic communication can be paralyzed by gov-

ernments willing to crack down on free access. "There is no way now that any mail can go unnoticed if you don't encrypt it," Pantic says. Responding to this situation, a number of organizations have come to the aid of users seeking unmonitored access to the Web. Two days after NATO bombs began to fall, the La Mesa, California-based Anonymizer.com launched its **Kosovo Privacy Project** [info.anonymizer.com/kosovo.shtml], which allows users to log on to its Web site and send unmonitored e-mail or surf the Web anonymously.

"We can see messages sent through our system popping up in discussion rooms with firsthand reports from the ground," says Anonymizer President Lance Cottrell, adding that there have been plenty of responses supporting both sides of the conflict. "We've seen e-mails coming out of Serbia criticizing the Serbian government and talking about repression, and then you also have voices coming out of Serbia criticizing NATO and denying the stories of the situation in Kosovo."

But Cottrell strikes a more pessimistic note when he mentions that use of the Anonymizer peaked in the first week of the bombing and then began to decrease: "As the ethnic cleansing has advanced, the number of people in a position to access the Net has gone down rapidly."

There is a ray of light, though. The decrease in visitors has been counterweighted by increased traffic to another sector of the Net: human-rights sites. "First, we got the visibility," says Jagdish Parikh, the online associate for Human Rights Watch. "Now the visitors are coming. So we're trying to help them cultivate an interest in more general human-rights issues. That level of outreach, which remains a continuous process, wasn't happening earlier. For us, it's a big break."


John Emerson, the Web coordinator for **Amnesty International USA** [www.amnestyusa.org], agrees. "The old paradigm is that people sat in their living rooms and watched the news," he says. "The Net is much more interactive; it's not just a passive feed. Even though people can still feel helpless, they're sending more donations and letters, and becoming more involved, thanks to the interactivity of the Web."

'A REGIME THAT DOES NOT EMBARRASS'

As the first wired war rages on, observers and participants alike continue to use the Net for political, humanitarian, and

even military purposes. "There's no question that the Internet is a very important part of the way the war is being experienced," says Robert Leavitt, associate director of New York University's Center for War, Peace, and the News Media. "For people around the world, we are able to get some kind of information and communication with people inside Serbia. And for people within Serbia, it can be a lifeline." But Leavitt warns against summary judgments about the effects of the Net on a chaotic, unresolved conflict. "It's too early to tell," he says, adding that "none of this substitutes for the fact that the center of the war is in Kosovo. The Internet is not changing that."

Other observers feel that it's important to stress the Net's shortcomings alongside its successes. Jeffrey Cooper, director of the **Center for Information Strategy and Policy** [www.cisp.org], a Washington, D.C.-area think tank devoted to information issues, argues that, as a preventive device, the Net was something of a failure in Yugoslavia: "For Internet connectivity to work, you need to have an opponent who can be embarrassed. When you have governments where outside pressure can be applied, because of entanglements that are political or economic with the outside world, the Internet can serve as a useful pressure mechanism." The Milosevic regime, Cooper contends, has proved to be "a regime that does not embarrass."

Perhaps the most significant and effective use of the Internet may come after the conflict in Kosovo ends, when it's time to start rebuilding shattered communities in the Balkans. Though ADI's searchable database is a step in that direction, John West believes that the online medium may become especially useful in connecting the fragmented Albanian diaspora. "The big relief organizations, including the Red Cross and the UNHCR, are thinking of introducing limited online access to refugee centers, wherever they are," he says. "When you think that online access is a luxury, you've got to set it against what people may get out of it. Surely no one's going to go Internet surfing to see what books they want to buy on Amazon.com. But if it means they can contact someone from their village, then this could truly be revolutionary." 

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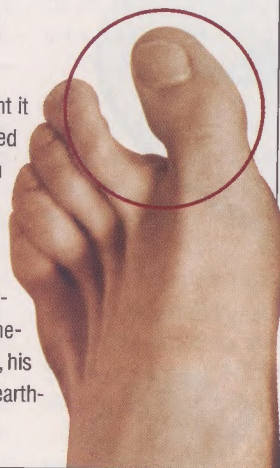
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BY SCOTT ALEXANDER

The Fellow Whose Big Toe Could Predict Earthquakes

www.pacificcoast.net/~rick

When Rick's toe started itching, he thought it was just a minor annoyance. When it stopped itching, there was a huge earthquake in Japan. Then his toe started itching again, and this time when it stopped it was Colombia's turn to quake, rattle, and roll. This left him convinced that he was "biomechanically attuned to the geo-magnetic phenomenon associated with faultlines." That is, his big toe was causing (or at least predicting) earthquakes around the globe.



The Lipstick Librarian!

www.teleport.com/~petlin/liplib

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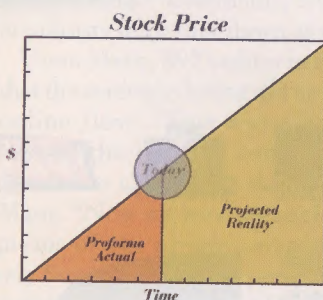


PAM FRANCIS/STONY STONE

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The Bunnies Strike Back

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After they had been double-crossed by the evil Marshmallow Peeps Syndicate and turned over to scientists for hideous "experiments," the future looked grim for the Marshmallow Bunnies. So they did what any oppressed candy treats would do: They doubled the scientists' pay and had them perform similar experiments on the Peeps. The results are chillingly detailed, including the infamous "projectile absorption," "batter up," and "deep freeze" tests. See what provoked this at **Bunny Survival Tests Home Page** [www.pcola.gulf.net/~irving/bunnies].



KIRYA HANADA

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